

# The next act

## Springtown High grad moves on to college, life's next challenges

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Springtown Epigraph interviewed a student from the Springtown High School senior class this spring to discuss the young person's next move in life: leaving home to attend college. Britney Tyree will attend Midwestern State University, and the Epigraph was in Wichita Falls Saturday when Tyree moved into her residence hall. The Epigraph also interviewed her parents to talk about their daughter and find out what it's like to see the second of their three children leave the nest.

BY DON MUNSCHE  
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Britney Tyree starts the next phase of her life this month, as she moves on to college.

Meeting new people. Participating in track.

Earning her degree. All will be a part of her life in the next few years.

Looking down the road past her undergrad years, Britney wants to attend medical school. Her best friend's experience helped shaped her career choice.

Britney, a 2022 Springtown High School grad, will attend Midwestern State University, where she will be on the track team. She will major in pre-medicine at MSU, in Wichita Falls, and wants to

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 4A.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCHE  
Britney Tyree, middle left, and her family on the campus of Midwestern State University. They include sister Skyler, father Joe, mother LeAnn, brother-in-law Kaleb Northrup and sister Megan.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Abigail Kennedy, a freshman at Springtown High School, smiles for a picture at the Lone Star Leadership Academy where she was able to experience a simulation of space travel, among other activities.

## Springtown student attends Lone Star Leadership Academy over the summer

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

While plenty of kids probably traveled during the summer, Springtown High School freshman Abigail Kennedy's summer included a trip to NASA's Johnson Space Center and the Lone Star Flight Museum, and she had the chance to develop her leadership skills.

Abigail participated in

the Lone Star Leadership Academy in Houston and Galveston. The academy took place during a week in July. She was able to see several significant and educational sites in the areas with a delegation of students from across the state.

The most memorable part of the camp for Abigail was visiting NASA and seeing the actual rockets that were blasted off into space.

"They were the real thing, and they rode in that, and it

went up in space (and) came back," she said.

Though Abigail's career aspirations have nothing to do with space - but rather with wildlife conservation and world travel - she said space exploration is awesome, and she enjoyed the part of her trip when she got to view stars and planets through telescopes.

"They were so magnified. It was like they were right

SEE CAMP, PAGE 8A.

## Reno City Council to consider removing two P&Z members

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno City Council is expected to decide whether to remove two Planning and Zoning Commission members from their places on the commission because of an incident that occurred at the July council meeting.

At a meeting last week, council member Jeff Davis made the motion for the

council to consider removing P&Z Secretary Alicia Kubena and P&Z member Stuart White from their positions at a future council meeting. The motion passed 3-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Katie Tucker opposing.

The council brought up the topic after having a heated discussion at the July 25 meeting. During the July meeting, the council discussed and approved a

water task force to make recommendations about water infrastructure improvements to council. Kubena asked the council why action to improve the water infrastructure had not been made previously, prompting a conversation that included raised voices on both sides of the dais.

At the Aug. 11 meeting,

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 3A.

## Springtown City Council member learns a lesson about posting on Facebook

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown's Scott Richardson recently learned an important lesson about being a City Council member who uses social media.

Springtown Administrative Services Director Christina Derr released a statement that the city received a com-

plaint via Facebook messenger on Aug. 2 regarding a social media post that Richardson, who took office in May after previously serving as the Planning and Zoning Commission chair, had made on his personal account. The post includes a picture of a T-shirt that says, "I haven't seen the Democrats this mad since we

took away their slaves" and included a picture of former President Abraham Lincoln wearing a pair of sunglasses.

The complaint was sent to City Administrator David Miller as well as the city attorney's office "as is standard protocol for these types of complaints," Derr said.

SEE FACEBOOK, PAGE 3A.

## Back to school



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE  
Ryeliana & Rai'lin Wren were ready for the first day of school to start on Monday at Reno Elementary School, but not before Rai'lin gave younger sister Ra'milia Wren a hug. She's not in school at this time.



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SPRINGTOWN NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON

# More than 60 new Springtown educators, staff members welcomed at annual luncheon

**BY MADELYN EDWARDS**  
*madelyn@azlenews.net*

Mary Lopez opened a gift that she won in a raffle at the Springtown New Teacher Luncheon and found \$100 inside a card from Springtown Floors.

She said she felt like crying. Lopez is teaching special education fourth grade at Springtown Elementary this school year. She has been an educator for five years, including at Weatherford ISD previously. So far, Lopez has noticed and appreciated the community support from Springtown folks. While the Springtown ISD teachers went on a scavenger hunt this year, she said random people would approach her and her colleagues to offer prayers of support for the teachers in the new school year.

“Being in this town of people (who) really care about us, we’ve all three been teaching for a long time, and we’re very moved,” Lopez said, referring to the teaching colleagues she sat with at the luncheon.

The luncheon is an annual collaboration between the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springtown Pastoral Fellowship, the Springtown Education Foundation, Springtown ISD and the city of Springtown. It was hosted last week at Oak Knoll Ranch, an event venue in Wise County.

At the luncheon, 55 new teachers and 11 new administrators and coordinators were showered with gifts and were introduced to the chamber members. The chamber collected gifts from local businesses and



PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS

**Educators who are new to Springtown ISD this year gathered for a luncheon at Oak Knoll Ranch on Aug. 11. The luncheon is an annual collaboration between the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springtown Pastoral Fellowship, the Springtown Education Foundation, Springtown ISD and the city of Springtown.**



**Gary Veazey, SISD board member and Legacy Church pastor, gave the keynote speech at the Springtown New Teacher Luncheon. He is pictured with his grandson Callen and wife Shannon.**

handed them out to the new Springtown educators in bags decorated with an image of the Springtown Porcupine mascot.

Among the new teachers were two familiar faces. Shane Scott, pastor of Walnut Creek Baptist Church and head of the pastoral fellowship, and Bodie Beaman, pastor of Springtown Community Fellowship, are also new teachers at Springtown High School this

year. Beaman is teaching welding this year, and Scott is teaching business.

Scott, who has been in ministry for 31 years, said he turned to teaching because he needed a new challenge, and teaching teenagers will allow him to be even more involved in the community.

“I’m hoping to make a difference there,” Scott said. Scott, who has an undergraduate degree in business and management, said he

had a good experience in his vocational business program while he was in high school.

“I had a really good teacher, and I have a lot of good ideas from him, how it can be done, and I’m looking forward to being a good teacher like him and putting those things into practice here in Springtown,” Scott said.

Beaman graduated from SHS in 2002 and has returned to help out during the teacher shortage and to get more

involved in the community. His goal for the new year is to “love on kids and use the tool of welding to encourage them.”

Both Beaman and Scott described a positive experience while joining the teaching staff in Springtown.

“The onboarding is really like you’re coming onto a team,” Beaman said. “One big family.”



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# COLLEGE

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Several people in her family have had cancer, along with her best friend, Erin Hall.

"It just seems like such an interesting field to go into," Britney said. "With technology always improving, there's always new opportunities and it's really competitive, so I think it will be exciting."

Erin attended Springtown High School and her surgeries went "really well," Britney said. She had to go through a recovery process and she had to take a break from band; most of these experiences happened during her sophomore year, Britney said. She has recovered, Britney said. Erin graduated this spring and will attend Texas Woman's University.

Britney's parents, Joe and LeAnn, said their daughter is prepared for the next stage in her life.

"For me, it's heart-wrenching," LeAnn said about her daughter getting ready to depart for college, adding there are some mixed emotions. No emotional state is permanent, and she and Joe will get through the initial sadness of not seeing their daughter every day.

LeAnn and Joe said Britney is a self-driven person, with LeAnn saying Britney always wanted to succeed and strive for excellence in everything she did, setting goals and achieving them.

"I'm proud of her - she's an amazing young woman," Joe said. "It's very emotional."

The emotions were similar when older daughter Megan went to college in Dallas (University of Texas at Dallas), but she had her boyfriend attending the same school, and another difference now is that Britney will be in a place farther away from home and by herself.

"I think there's just one other student from Springtown going out there," LeAnn said.

Mom and Dad left it up to Britney to decide which school to attend and didn't offer any advice on that matter, as she planned to run track, and LeAnn said she likes MSU because of its location in Wichita Falls, which she finds agreeable.

## READY, SET, GO

Britney hopes to run the 400 at MSU, but she might try something new by running the 800. Her roommate on campus also will be in the track program.

"We've talked and we got to meet earlier this summer," she said. Her roommate hails from Little Elm.

"It's not overwhelming, but it feels like there's a tight community at the same time and you're going to have plenty of friends," Britney said about MSU. "You're not going to struggle with being in an area where it's too competitive or you can't make friends there. And also, it's just very pretty."

Britney has met the coach - Kelsey Bruce - and some of her teammates, and those teammates she met so far have been "really nice." Britney expects Bruce to push her "pretty hard."

## BEGINNING THE NEXT CHAPTER

Britney moved into her residence hall last Saturday morning. Mom and dad were there along with sister Skyler. It took little time to haul everything into the residence hall, as volunteers helped students move belongings.

"It's really exciting. There's definitely some nerves going into it just because I don't know everything, of course, but I'm really excited to get it done," Britney said about entering college. "I keep telling myself it's going to happen. I'm going to get this degree no matter how hard it is."

She knows that academic life on campus will be structured differently with class schedules.

"I'm looking forward to that," she said, adding that she's eager to meet people while staying close to the friends she has now.

"I hope I don't drown this semester - I'm taking 17 hours, on top of track, so I won't be able to work," she said.

She took dual credit classes while in high school, and she earned 38 hours of college and is classified as a sophomore. She expects to graduate in May 2025, if everything goes as planned.

In high school, she was involved in a number of activities, allowing her to be able to make friends with a lot of different types of people.

"And then there were just really great teachers (at SHS), so they made the experience a lot better," she said.

She said track and band were her favorite activities in high school. She played the French horn and was also a drum major.

"It was so fun - I'm going to miss it so much," she said. "I just drove by this morning during band camp, and I was like, ah, man, I'm going to miss it so much. But I know that the drum majors that are new this year are going to be really good."

Britney finished seventh in the senior class, and her mother said she was the "busiest high school person" she has ever seen.

"She's just one of those kids that just never stops," LeAnn said. "She gets all of her stuff done and then she's onto thinking about what she needs to be preparing for the next day. She's a very, very hard worker."

Born in Fort Worth, Britney lived in Dustin, Oklahoma, for three years and has lived most of her life in Springtown, where she's been since 2012. She has two sisters: Megan, 22, who lives in Denton, and her younger sibling, Skyler, who is 15 and will be a junior at SHS this year.

Britney said she will miss her family and her three dogs - one of which she's especially fond of, her mom said - when she leaves home. She also will miss her coaches and the friends she made in high school.

As far as advice about college, she said her mother gave her wise counsel: take everything a day at a time.

"Which has seemed to help in the past," Britney said. "Like take breaks when you're overwhelmed, and just use everything you have to your advantage."

LeAnn said she tells her daughter to enjoy the ride and be easy on yourself because "humans are fragile beings. And always put God first."

Britney will be in the honors program at MSU and she applied to the TRIO Student Service program, and that will help with scholarships and tutoring.

The most important lesson she learned from her parents?

"Hard work pays off, for sure," she said. "My dad has always said that from (when I was) a young age. Practice makes perfect."

Her mother has been instrumental in her faith.

"So I have a really good relationship with God, and that's all that really matters



PHOTOS BY DON MUNSCHE  
Before moving into her residence hall room, Britney Tyree, left, with her mom LeAnn, dad Joe and sister Skyler checked in at the student center.



Britney Tyree gets settled into her room at Midwestern State.

for me," Britney said. "I know that will help me out on any trial, any struggle."

LeAnn said Britney has always been a sweet person who cares about other people. As far as Britney's faith, LeAnn said Britney has "always loved the Lord very much." She enjoys seeing how her daughter wants to live her life for God and please him. Joe admires his daughter's strength and stubborn streak that drives her to accomplish what she wants.

The parents admire how their daughter dealt with scoliosis when she was younger, as she had to wear a back brace for 14 hours a day for two years.

"It was so difficult for her, but she did it and really didn't complain much," LeAnn said.

## AFTER COLLEGE

Britney is not sure where

she would attend medical school, but she would like to practice medicine in Texas.

"I think she's going to be in school for a long time," LeAnn said, laughing, reflecting on Britney wanting to be a medical oncologist.

As to what excites Britney about the next stage in her life, she said she is now branching off to accomplish what she wants, and college will set her up for what she wants to do for the rest of

her life.

She also can't wait to form "some new relationships outside this small town that I have loved but I am excited to get out of." She expects some homesickness, and will miss her family the most, not to mention home cooking.

Britney also thinks she has some life skills to survive, as well.

"I can do laundry; I think I can change a tire," she said, laughing.

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# What is your water telling you?

**BY JR REAVIS**  
 Director of Water  
 Technology, Texas Water  
 Utilities

The process of turning ground and surface water into safe water for your home can be a complex process.

By the time water reaches your tap, many factors can influence the water's color, taste or smell. These aesthetics are typically harmless and do not cause health related issues.

Where your water is sourced is a factor that can impact color, taste and smell, but other factors such as your home's plumbing and home treatment devices can also impact water quality. For these reasons, the water industry recognizes August as National Water Quality Month to encourage ways we can all ensure safe and clean drink-

ing water.

## WATER SOURCE

Water providers monitor for hundreds of man-made and naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic, radon and agricultural contaminants (pesticides and herbicides). You can learn about the source of your drinking water by reading your water system's annual drinking water quality report, which will provide information on minerals or compounds in your water. Most water systems are required to provide this report to customers and post them by July 1 each year.

If you have groundwater, you may have hard water as a result of naturally occurring minerals, such as magnesium, calcium and iron. Hard water can cause spots on dishes, film on hands after

washing them with soap, or a gradual decline in water pressure as it builds up in your pipes over months or years. Minerals such as manganese and iron can cause tinted yellow or orange water and can stain clothing and fixtures.

Customers who receive treated surface water generally don't have as many issues associated with the mineral content of the water, but may have issues with taste and odor compounds commonly found in surface water. In general, taste and odor issues are short lived and typically occur in the spring and late fall.

## PLUMBING

Water utilities monitor for lead and copper in drinking water, and if detected in the supply, immediate action is taken to correct the issue. However, water utilities are not responsible for a home-

owner's plumbing inside or outside your home.

Black iron or galvanized pipe may react with chlorine used to disinfect drinking water and cause discoloration. If tap water is discolored every morning and clears after a few minutes, the discoloration is at one faucet, or the discoloration is in your hot water.

Periodically flushing the hot water heater can resolve discoloration. Most hot water lines going into a washing machine have a wire strainer, which is designed to catch sediment. Cleaning the wire strainer to a washing machine's hot water line once or twice a year can help prevent clothes from staining.

## HOMETREATMENT DEVICES

All home treatment devices, regardless of the tech-

nologies they use, require regular maintenance. Water quality problems may result if maintenance is not performed correctly.

If you're like most Texans and have hard water, you may have invested in a water softener system. These appliances replace calcium and magnesium with sodium and potassium, which can cause the water to taste salty. Most people who install these systems either wait too long before installing or don't need them in the first place. Many also abandon the system after a year or two of use. Water softeners must be maintained properly by changing out the filter or cartridge where bacteria can grow. Maintaining a typical water softener system also requires replacing salt, and how often salt is replaced depends on usage.

Home filtration systems that utilize carbon cartridges remove the disinfectant from the water, but this can promote bacteria growth in the home's plumbing. The best place for a filter is in the refrigerator or at the tap, and it needs to be changed on a frequent basis. Water pitcher filters also work well to address taste and odor issues.

If you notice a sudden change in the quality of your water, check your home treatment device and check with your water utility provider on the status of your water system. A disruption in service can impact water quality, and a boil water notice may be issued. If there is no disruption in service, let the water run for a few minutes to see if the water's appearance changes. Always check with your water utility provider if you have any questions.

## COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

council members complained about the lack of decorum at the July 25 meeting. Before he made his motion, Davis said Kubena and White continued to talk throughout the meeting.

"We were trying to listen to (City Administrator) Scott (Passmore), and you couldn't hear him because front row and second row wouldn't be quiet," Davis said.

White and Kubena declined to comment after the meeting. During public comments in the Aug. 11 meeting, White defended Kubena and P&Z

Chair Brian Schrader while scrutinizing the conduct of Deputy Pro Tem Hernando Herrera and Davis during the July 25 meeting. The council discussed Schrader's conduct during the meeting as well, but he was excluded from Davis's motion.

"I'm really concerned about the conduct that's expected of Planning and Zoning, but it's not expected of the council members," White said.

He added, "The threats, the belligerent outbursts, the screaming at your citizens and at your Planning and Zoning, that's not deserved by anybody here. That's not deserved by anybody in this city. You don't want it done to you; don't do it to anybody else."

Herrera said P&Z members are held to a higher accountability and should "know better" regarding the rules of decorum.

"What was spoken, at least in the most part whether it was shouting or not, was out of decorum, and they know better," Herrera said. "I would be held accountable the same way if I went to P&Z and spoke out."

City attorney Dottie Palumbo reminded council and the audience that people are allowed to speak during the public comment period as well as during certain agenda items when they are recognized by the mayor.

"The fact that people are just shouting out and asking

questions from the audience, that is not orderly meeting procedures and that is not allowed under that section of the law," Palumbo said.

Mayor Sam White said after the meeting that sometimes he tries to be flexible on letting people speak to encourage input from the residents. He said he usually limits those who can speak to the list of people who sign up but will allow more discussion from the public during smaller meetings when he knows it can be controlled.

"I try to let people raise their hand and let them speak because that's what they're here for," Sam White said.

Recalling the water infrastructure discussion in July,

council member Shelli Swift said that it was unfair to blame the current council for the city's water infrastructure issues when they've had multiple other priorities in the past year.

"Y'all basically bashed us for not having these problems fixed," Swift said.

Schrader said he did not bash the council or refer to the council's competence during the July 25 meeting.

Tucker, who voted against the motion to consider removal of White and Kubena, made a motion to dismiss the whole issue, but it failed to gain a second.


"Citizens have a right to speak in council meetings. They have the right to

state their opinions. Nobody swore. Nobody got violent," Tucker said. "We must learn to listen to their criticism. That is part of our job. If we don't like what we hear, then we need to change something."


Sam White said after the meeting that the council should move on from the disagreements.

"Sometimes you just have to overlook a disagreement and move on, and that's what we should do," Sam White said. "We should say, OK, things got a little heated, but it was heated on both sides. That doesn't mean you discard all your players because one of you got (in a) disagreement."

# Spotlight on BUSINESS AUGUST



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Don't miss the 38th Annual Wild West Festival on Sept. 17 with lots of fun activities for the whole family to enjoy.

## The Springtown Chamber of Commerce is all about community

The Springtown Chamber of Commerce is a place for the community to come together. The organization works to keep all facets of the area connected.

The Chamber partners with the City of Springtown and Springtown ISD to build a strong, quality community and workforce for future generations.

The Chamber – comprised of individuals and businesses in and around Springtown – is involved with projects like improvements to town facilities, parks, schools, and human resources.

Amy Walker is the Chamber's Executive Director. Marcia Garcia is her assistant, together they, along with the help of many volunteers, run the Chamber out of 112 South Main Street, on the west side of the Square.

As a 501(c)(6) organization, the Chamber raises funds through membership fees and fundraising.

A major fundraiser and Springtown's biggest event of the year arrives in September.

The 38th Annual Wild West Festival is slated for Sept. 17. Entry to the all-day event is completely free!

Thousands of locals and visitors from miles away pour into the town square where they experience a variety of fun activities: gunfights, a children's area with lots of rides, and a parade.

The huge event opens at 9 a.m. with the parade starting at 10 a.m.

This year marks the 24th Annual BBQ cook-off where teams vie for cash prizes, trophies and, of course, bragging rights. The cook-off is located in the park behind Brookshire's. For more info on the contest, contact the Chamber by calling 817-220-7828.

Hundreds of booths manned by vendors who sell just about anything a festival-goer can imagine will be lining the square. And there is always a wide array of food and drink sellers.

To alleviate traffic congestion, vans will be shuttling folks for free from Springtown First Baptist Church. Golf carts and shuttles run back and forth from Springtown Elementary School to the festival and from the BBQ area to the festival on the west side of the Square (subject to change).

Applications for the Parade, BBQ Cook-Off, and Vendor Booths are available at the Chamber office.

T-shirts will be available for sale soon and volunteers are always welcomed to help the festival run smoothly.

The Chamber is especially thankful for the businesses on the Square for their cooperation during the event.

Call the Springtown Chamber at 817-220-7828 for more information or visit their office on the west side of the Square Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Springtown Elementary School Principal Pearl Russell introduced the new members of her staff at the New Teacher Luncheon on Aug. 11.



Springtown ISD Superintendent Mike Kelley shares a few words at the New Teacher Luncheon at Oak Knoll Ranch.

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# A matter of perspective: It all depends on whose ox is getting gored

We all have different perspectives of the world. Sometimes people hold opinions based on assumptions that may or may not be true. It is only when a problem becomes personal to them that they begin to see how things may not be as they first thought.

Years ago, I worked with a brilliant veterinarian. I was told he graduated first in his class from Texas A&M, and he had a wonderful talent when it came to dealing with equines. He had been raised in a small, rural Texas community and from my perspective he was a little narrow minded when it came to some issues. The truth is, we did not disagree on many issues. When we did, I came to learn he sometimes formulated an opinion not based on facts, or true analysis, but rather on



## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a newspaper executive, a columnist, author, actor and entertainment promoter.

emotion or what he had been told by others. This is something he would not do in his work. On the job, he was thorough, consistent, and would never draw a conclusion without medical evidence.

We were having lunch and he expressed very strong views about then-Gov. Bush's tough on crime policies. "Hang them all! I am sick and tired of people flaunting the law, stealing and not working. The judges need to put people away for as long as possible, every chance they can."

I tried to explain that there

are all sorts of reasons crimes get committed and while I believed people should be punished for wrongful acts, there needed to be some consideration given for the circumstances of the act. A single mother stealing to feed her kids is not the same as a career burglar, and they should not be treated as such. I tried to explain that is why a judge "judges" based on the facts; they do not simply sentence. My words made no difference for Doc, as he had his mind set. Period. No exceptions. We let the subject matter

drop and went back to work.

About a month later, Doc was driving through a small town while coming home from an emergency call. In the early morning hour, he was driving 59 in a 25-mile-an-hour zone. The police officer wrote a ticket, which Doc flippantly tossed up on his dashboard with all the other loose papers and lab results. Doc's dashboard was his "mobile office."

The ticket commanded Doc to pay the fine or make an appearance in court within three weeks to contest the matter. Once Doc "filed" the citation, it was completely forgotten. Breeding season was a busy time. He was working seven days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day. A month went by, and then a second. Finally, one day he received a letter from the

court telling him he needed to appear at a time certain, advising him he was in contempt of court and an arrest warrant had been issued for him for failure to appear. Doc, knowing my legal background, immediately brought the notice to me and said, "I guess I forgot all about that durned ticket. You gotta help me get out of this mess."

I immediately looked Doc in the eye and smiled. I then said, "Wait a dang minute. I believe in Gov. Bush's 'get tough on crime' policy and support it. These folks that ignore citations and flaunt the authority of the court need to do about 60 days in jail. It will make them stop speeding in our communities and endangering public safety. It will send them a clear message that flaunting a citation will not be toler-

ated! There should be no exceptions."

Doc immediately responded, "Come on now! This isn't funny. I admit I screwed up. I have been too darn busy with breeding season to worry about a speeding ticket. Can't I go ahead and pay the fine and you take care of it for me? I am no criminal."

I then giggled and said, "but all evidence is to the contrary."

I did keep Doc from going to jail. He paid the fine plus a fee for failing to appear. He also walked away with a slightly different view on life.

It's interesting how your viewpoint can change, depending on if your ox is the one that is getting gored.

Thought for the day: The world isn't fair, so why the heck can't it be unfair in my favor?

# Hello, Monday!

I know that not everyone who will read this post will read it on Monday, but stick with me anyway.

I'm writing it on Monday. Whatever day you read it, you can use it to prepare for your next Monday.

There's an old preacher joke (I'm not sure if it's a joke about old preachers or an old joke about preachers) that says every preacher writes his letter of resignation every Monday. The hope is that he'll tear it up by Friday. The last one written is the one that makes it to Sunday.

If you know, you know.

Two things I should clear up: I know that not every preacher is male and I know that the Monday blues are not limited to preachers.

When was the last time you heard anyone say, "I can't wait until Monday" if Monday wasn't the first day of their vacation?

Or how about this one:

"Hang in there, baby!

Monday's coming!"

Do you know anyone who named their child Monday?

"Come on, Monday Lou! It's time to go to school."

I didn't think so.

Poor Monday.

Monday is the Rodney Dangerfield of weekdays — it don't get no respect. (Showed my age with that reference).



## BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at [www.discoveryouramazing.com](http://www.discoveryouramazing.com).

Do you know what the worst thing is about being Monday?

There's nothing Monday can do about it.

Seriously.

We are the only ones who can help Monday overcome its Mondayness.

And how do we do it?

On purpose.

We decide how we will treat Monday.

We decide how we will approach the week.

We can get up Monday morning thinking about how tired we are, how stressed we are over the responsibilities we know about, and how anxious we are about everything that could go wrong.

We can enter Monday already thinking about Friday — and doing all that sets us up to treat Monday like an enemy.

Or we can choose a different approach.

We can drag our tired selves out of bed, get a strong cup of coffee, look Monday straight in the eye,

and say, "Hello, Monday. You and I are going to approach this week looking for opportunities to show up and step up. We're going to look for ways to show what we're made of. We're going to keep our eyes open for ways to help. Now, let's do this!"

Dude has lost his mind. Talking to a day like that's going to make it better.

OK! I admit it.

That kind of talk won't change Monday at all.

But it will change us.

As a person of faith, I'm convinced that if I approach Monday looking for ways to make Monday matter in the way I live out my faith, I'm more likely to approach six other days with the same focus.

Once I realize there is not a single thing about a day of the week that prevents me from living the life I was made for, I can find amazing on most every day that ends with Y.

Be amazing today, my friend.

## CAMP

FROM PAGE 1

there in front" of her, she said.

According to a news release, Abigail was selected for the academy "based on her outstanding academic success, demonstrated leadership ability, involvement in school and community activities and a successful completion of a previous Lone Star Leadership Academy camp." The camp is for students in grade levels fourth through eighth who have grade averages of 85 or higher, demonstrate leadership ability, are involved in community or school activities and receive a recommendation from an educator.

Abigail thought it was

special to be selected to go to the camp. She was able to attend last summer as well and traveled to Austin and San Antonio after being nominated by one of her teachers.

Abigail's favorite part of the trip was being able to meet new people and bond with the friends she made during last year's camp.

"Now I have so many friends from just everywhere," she said.

When asked what she learned during the camp that was the most valuable, Abigail pointed to the discussions of leadership skills. In addition to seeing the sights, the camp included leadership groups in which the students examined qualities of effective leaders and practiced those skills, ac-

ording to the news release.

Abigail described a good leader as "someone who is respectable, who respects others and can encourage them even if they're kind of failing" as well as someone who is inclusive and has good ideas.

Next year, Abigail may be putting those leadership skills into action. She plans to join one of her friends at the Fort Worth camp next year as a youth facilitator. According to the website for Education in Action — the nonprofit that hosts the leadership camps — youth facilitators return to the camps to be mentors to the younger, first-time campers as well as to assist the adult facilitators and camp directors.

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

### CITY OF SPRINGTOWN TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Springtown will hold a public hearing at 6:00 PM on August 25, 2022, at City of Springtown Municipal Annex Building, 200 North Main St. Springtown, Texas 76082, regarding the removal of street improvements in connection with the City's Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) contract. The City requests to remove one thousand two hundred linear feet (1,200 l.f.) of street improvements utilizing four thousand three hundred ten square yards (4,310 s.y.) of reinforced concrete pavement, and two thousand two hundred linear feet (2,200 l.f.) of concrete curb. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to provide comments and discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of funding available, eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. Citizens are encouraged to participate in this TxCDBG contract and make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Christina Derr at 102 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Springtown, Texas 76082, 817-220-4834. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Para más información en español, comuníquese con Christina Derr al 817-220-4834.

La ciudad de Springtown llevará a cabo una audiencia pública a las 18:00 del 25 de agosto de 2022, en el edificio anexo municipal de la ciudad de Springtown, 200 North Main St. Springtown, Texas 76082, con respecto a la eliminación de mejoras en las calles en relación con el contrato del Programa de Subsidios en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario de Texas (TxCDBG) de la Ciudad. La Ciudad solicita eliminar mil doscientos pies lineales (1200 pies cuadrados) de mejoras en las calles utilizando cuatro mil trescientas diez yardas cuadradas (4310 sy) de pavimento de concreto reforzado y dos mil doscientos pies lineales (2200 pies cuadrados) de bordillo de concreto. El propósito de esta reunión es brindar a los ciudadanos la oportunidad de brindar comentarios y discutir el plan de participación ciudadana, el desarrollo de las necesidades locales de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario, la cantidad de fondos disponibles, las actividades elegibles de TxCDBG y el uso de fondos anteriores de TxCDBG. Se alienta a los ciudadanos a participar en este contrato de TxCDBG y dar a conocer sus puntos de vista en esta audiencia pública. Los ciudadanos que no puedan asistir a esta reunión pueden enviar sus opiniones y propuestas a Christina Derr en 102 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Springtown, Texas 76082, 817-220-4834. Las personas con discapacidad que deseen asistir a esta reunión deben comunicarse con el Ayuntamiento para solicitar asistencia. Las personas que requieran ayuda o servicios auxiliares para esta reunión deben comunicarse con la Ciudad al menos dos días antes de la reunión para que se puedan hacer los arreglos apropiados. Para más información en inglés, comuníquese con Christina Derr al 817-220-4834.

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF CLAIM AND PUBLIC SALE

Property to be sold to satisfy landlord's lien. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from the sale. Unit items to be sold to the highest bidder. Sale to be held ONLINE at <https://www.storagetreasures.com/>. Location of Units for Public Sale: Longhorn State Storage 11700 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth, Tx 76135. Auction to be held on Monday August 29th, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the following tenants: Gary Pendelton, Randy Talley, Kandie Hillen.

### Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that Storage Bright at 104 Adalida Lane, Springtown, Texas 76082 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to Title 5, Liens Chapter 59 Sec. 59.044). The sale will take place at the website [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) on August 25, 2022 at 10:00 am. The sale will be conducted on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com), under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (16850) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com). Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10-15% buyer's premium will be charged and a cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted: Charles Gerlach

### Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that Storage Bright at 1220 Hwy 199 East, Springtown, Texas 76082 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to Title 5, Liens Chapter 59 Sec. 59.044). The sale will take place at the website [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) on August 25, 2022 at 10:00 am. The sale will be conducted on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com), under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (16850) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com). Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10-15% buyer's premium will be charged and a cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted: Lindsey Mann

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC/ONLINE AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, Springtown Self Storage, which is located at 1050 W Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082 and will begin an online auction with [storageauctions.com](http://storageauctions.com) of contents to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on August 17th to September 14th, 2022 ending at 9:00PM Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only! The contents of these units contain mainly household goods. The contents must be removed from the property within 72 hours of the winning bid. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw from the auction.

Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Kaci Wampler, Chastity Holland, Debra Maness, Dewayne Webb, Joshua Callahn, Tyler Tripolone and Jennifer Pender



# Back to School *Students return to school for the 2022-23 school year.*



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE  
Ryeliana, left, and Rai'lin Wren, right, at Reno Elementary.



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
Goshen Creek Elementary students and their families walked into school on the first day of the new year on Aug. 15.



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
Springtown Elementary School students were excited for the first day of school.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE  
Gilberto, left, and Zayra Barrios head into Reno Elementary School.



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Please email your photo in uniform to [Johnna@azlenews.net](mailto:Johnna@azlenews.net)

**Include: Name of veteran, branch of service, years served.**

**Silver Creek United Methodist Church** *Lord's Acre*  
**59<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**2200 Church Rd. Azle TX 76020**

**PRIZE DRAWING:**  
**2022 Hustler Turf FasTrak 48" Kawasaki Ft. 691 w/Trailer**

**\$20 Entry**  
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Drawing September 17, 2022 at 1:00 pm at SCUMC Lord's Acre

Do not have to be present to win



**Buy tickets online at silvercreekumc.org**

**HURRY! Deadline to submit is Monday, Oct. 3**

If you submitted a photo for last year's veterans section we will include it in this year's special section.



**Azle News** **The Springtown Epigraph**



# Back to School *Students return to school for the 2022-23 school year.*



PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
Victoria Kinder walks first grader Nolan Herdje into Goshen Creek Elementary for the first day of school.



Brent Andres takes his third grader Madison to school at Goshen Creek Elementary on the first day of the new year.



Jucari Casillas walks her second grader Melanie into Goshen Creek Elementary for the first day of school.

Left: Fourth grader Phoenix Vasquez smiles for a picture on the first day of school outside Goshen Creek Elementary School.



Middle: Zoe Ubanda: With her hot pink bag, kindergartener Zoe Ubanda made her way into Goshen Creek Elementary on the first day of school on Aug. 15.



Right: Kindergartener Audrey Neave poses for a picture outside of Goshen Creek Elementary on the first day of school on Aug. 15.




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 For more information, visit [TexasHealth.org/Azle](https://www.texashealth.org/azle) or call 817-444-8600







PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE  
Freshman McKenzie Bratcher performs with the Springtown Showstoppers outside the school auditorium.

## Orientation helps quell disorientation for Springtown freshmen, new students

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

A mom and daughter walked side by side rather stoically down a hallway at Springtown High School, slowly making their way to the auditorium, where an orientation for freshman and new students was about to take place.

Lori Longino had high hopes that her daughter, Eleanor, would adapt to her new surroundings. The family had uprooted recently and moved to Texas from Arizona.

Lori and her husband both work full-time. Eleanor, who would rather be home-schooled, was far from excited about attending a new institution of learning.

Mom was insistent. "I feel like it's better if she has the interaction and one-on-one teacher instruction and things like that," she said. "She's got plans to go to college, and I feel like she needs the guidance." Eleanor, who had spent

most of her life growing up with the same buddies, found herself in a strange town at a new school without a friend and, seemingly, without much desire to make one.

"I'd rather not be here," she said. "I don't like school." Enrolling had made her anxious, but "I've just got to deal with it," she said. "It's exactly the same as Arizona. It's just my friends aren't here."

She hopes the school year goes well but will focus on her studies more than the social aspect, she said.

"I want to go to college, so I'll probably just stick to school," she said.

Lori Longino smiled at her daughter, and her concern

was obvious. She wanted her daughter to be happy. Being a teenager can be tough, especially when torn away from old friends, but Lori felt Eleanor would handle things.

"It think it will be fine," she said. "She's a really good student. As much as she doesn't really enjoy being at school, she does a good job with her studies. She makes really good grades. I don't think that her not wanting to be here is going to interfere with her ability to continue with her good grades."

### BIG HELLO

A fanfare awaited the new students as they approached the auditorium. The Springtown Showstoppers were dancing while the drum battery wailed, and the atmosphere was party-like.

Dancing at the end of the line with the Showstoppers

SEE ORIENTATION, PAGE 2B.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE  
Lori and Eleanor head down a hallway at Springtown High School to attend freshman and new student orientation.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE  
From left, littler sister Britan and Springtown senior Regan Burdick pull off a layer of old paint on the parking space Regan won in the annual auction.

## Springtown students stake claims at parking lot painting party

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Last year, Chandler King made a big mark at Springtown High School.

While a junior, King served as an officer on the National Honor Society and won a \$350 scholarship in an essay contest. The Springtown Optimist Club named him Texan of the Month. He excelled on the school's UIL Academic Team.

Now a senior, King plans to continue his roll by gliding into his favorite parking spot to begin each school day. The annual parking auction, which raises money for the school, allows students to bid on their favorite spots.

After the auction ends, a paint party is held in the parking lot, and the auction winners customize their spots, which are reserved for them throughout their senior year.

"It feels great," King said. He had won his spot with a bid of \$255.

"I like it because of the convenience to the door," he said.

He likes it for another reason, as well.

"This one was labeled K1 - so, King 1," he said with a smile.

And one other reason. "It's very easy to pull into, and I kind of have a wide car," he said.

The K1 spot is first on the

row and close to a school entrance, meaning he could beat a hasty retreat to the parking lot exit during the after school rush.

Will it help him make better grades?

"I was already making some pretty great grades," he said.

### GRACEFUL LOSER

Regan Burdick wanted K1 and placed a bid or two on it, but she wasn't up for a bidding war. She settled on a cheaper spot catty-corner to K1.

"I did originally bid on that spot, but he beat me out of it," she said, nodding toward King. "But this one is alright,

SEE PAINT, PAGE 2B.





PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

**Benjamin Cannon uses a long-handled roller to apply a coat of primer to his parking spot.**

## PAINT

FROM PAGE 1B

and I got it cheaper.” Burdick, captain of the Springtown Showstoppers dance troupe, likes her spot because it’s close to the door leading into the school’s dance studio.

Her parking space design involved her name, the year 2023 and orange flowers along the edges.

“The flowers will be pretty easy,” she said while using a long-handled roller to cover her spot with the first base coat of paint. “You don’t want to do something too hard on your spot. I’m not the most artistic person.”

Burdick played it safe from a design standpoint, but some kids, especially those with artistic streaks, came up with elaborate presentations. The painted spaces tend to reflect the personalities of their owners, Burdick said.

“Some people go all out and make theirs really cool,” she said. “It’s pretty cool to see what everyone did.”

Mom, Dad and little sister were there to help Burdick with the painting. Dad Jeremy was pouring paint into a pan and using a roller, and little sister Britan helped with a brush. Mom Amanda applied a watchful eye.

“I’m supervising,” she said. “They’re doing alright for now.”

This marked the second

time the Burdicks had bid on a parking spot for one of their children. Thirteen years from now, when 4-year-old Britan is a senior, “hopefully, she’ll get one too,” Amanda Burdick said.

Mom was lamenting that they had forgotten to bring painter’s tape when a gust of wind flipped over the paint pan and spilled a quarter gallon of paint on the asphalt beside Regan’s spot.

“Uh-oh,” Amanda Burdick said.

The family hustled to clean up the mess and realized they might run short of paint. Mom made a supervisory decision.

“We’re going to need more paint,” she told her husband. “This is not going to be enough.”

### SIDE BY SIDE

Catty-corner to Regan’s spot was the spot won by senior Benjamin Cannon, a drum major with the marching band. He approached his design with the precision of an engineer, remembering to bring his painter’s tape and marking off the edges of his space for a perfectly straight line.

Then, he began applying a coat of primer paint for a base.

“I’m a bit of a perfectionist,” he said. “I don’t want half measures when it comes to things. This is ensuring that everything will turn out the way I want it.”

Regan Burdick and Cannon



**Regan Burdick attempts a straight line despite forgetting to bring painter’s tape.**

are sweethearts, and they look forward to parking next to each other during their senior year.

Cannon incorporated designs used in the marching band uniforms.

“It’s going to have the little stripes and the buttons, and I’m going to try to do the ‘S,’” Cannon said. “It is an Old English calligraphy ‘S.’ It’s

going to be a pain, but I’m hoping it’ll be worth it.”

Sometimes, people inadvertently park in a spot that was reserved for a student. This reporter returned to his truck one day after a sporting event and found a handwritten note from a student stuck on his windshield: “Not your parking spot!”

The students know the

rules, however, and few will attempt to park in a reserved spot without permission, Cannon said.

“It’s very territorial,” he said. “You park in someone’s spot, it’s really cutthroat, like you’re spitting in their face. People own these spots.”

Not all spots are auctioned, and many general parking spots are left avail-

able for students and visitors who don’t participate in the auction.

“It’s all just convenience,” Cannon said. “You have to be real strategic about these spaces. Right after school, everybody wants to go home. You have to pick a spot that’s near one of these exits. If you’re in the middle, you’re kind of out of luck.”



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

**A large crowd turned out for the event.**

## ORIENTATION

FROM PAGE 1B

was another newbie — freshman McKenzie Bratcher.

“It’s definitely a big transfer from middle school to high school, but I’m very happy to be here around every-

body and learning a bunch of new stuff,” she said.

Leaving middle school to go to high school and become a babe in the forest of older teenagers can be a “little nerve-wracking, but I think I can take it,” she said.

Inside the darkened auditorium, the new students watched an overhead pre-

sentation that offered numerous tips for settling into a new scene:

“Show up and try your best.”

“Don’t start a procrastination habit.”

“Take care of your grades — they will affect you later.”

“Have fun, make memories.”

“Don’t be afraid to try new things.”

Robin Lewis attended the orientation to provide support for her son, freshman Robert Lewis. The family had moved to Azle from Decatur recently.

The purpose of orientation is to “make them feel welcome at the new high school

and to help with their transition and let them see all the different clubs and organizations that are available,” she said. “Find your niche. Find your group. Find your home here so that you can join in and be a Porcupine.”

Her son enjoyed a head start on the socialization process. He had joined the

football team, participated in summer workouts and made friends already.

“He’s pretty excited,” she said. “Of course, change is change. I’m sure there is some nervousness there, but he’s found his group. The football players. I think he’s more excited to get going on this great opportunity than he is nervous.”



# Texas gas prices lowest in nation; voter registration deadline is Oct. 11; drought conditions now into sixth month

## TEXAS GAS PRICES LOWEST IN NATION

While gas prices nationwide dropped below \$4 per gallon average last week, the state boasts the lowest prices in the country at an average of \$3.49 — 50 cents below the national average, according to AAA Texas.

“Retail gasoline prices in Texas fell for the eighth consecutive week,” said AAA Texas spokesperson Daniel Armbruster. “While gas prices will likely keep dropping in the near term, it is unclear how long the trend will last. Demand for fuel jumped seven percent across the U.S. this week and regional fuel supplies fell by around three percent.”

Drivers fueling up in College Station are paying the most on average at \$3.72, while those in the Brownsville-Harlingen area have the cheapest fuel at \$3.19, according to a report by KWTX-Waco.

## VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 11

Eligible Texas voters must be registered by Oct. 11 in order to cast ballots in the Nov. 8 general election, according



## CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. gborders@texaspress.com.

to Texas Secretary of State John Scott.

“Even though we’re still two months away from the voter registration deadline, it’s never too early to make sure you’re registered, update your registration information if you need to, and prepare yourself to vote in the upcoming election,” Scott said.

Texas law requires eligible voters to be registered 30 days before Election Day. Since the 30th day before Nov. 8 falls on a Sunday, prospective voters have two extra days to register this year.

Voters can visit the state’s official voting website — [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov) — for more information.

## COVID-19 CASES DIP SLIGHTLY

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week dipped slightly

to 72,715 with 194 new deaths reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 3,174 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday, a slight drop from the previous week.

## DROUGHT CONDITIONS NOW INTO SIXTH MONTH

By the end of July, drought conditions covered 97% of the state, up 11 percentage points from the end of June, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. July was drier and warmer than normal, a familiar refrain in 2022.

Storage in the state’s reservoirs is at 71% of capacity,

which is 13 percentage points below normal for this time of year, Wentzel wrote. Still, the current drought is not as severe as the one Texans endured in 2011 for most of the state. However, South Texas is faring worse than it did in 2011 since it started the year with its water supply reservoirs already well below normal.

## MORE STATE RESOURCES MOBILIZED FOR WILDFIRE THREATS

On Friday alone, Texas A&M Forest Service firefighters responded to 15 new wildfires that burned 540 acres. There are five active wildfires throughout the state, the largest being the Pine Pond Fire in Bastrop County, covering an estimated 700 acres and just 35% contained as of Sunday.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott has deployed additional strike teams, consisting of 32 firefighters and 10 engines.

“Communities across the state continue to be impacted by dangerously dry conditions that could lead to fur-

ther spread of wildfires,” said Abbott said.

Burn bans are now in place in 224 Texas counties, out of 254 total.

## SCAMMER POSING AS TDI EMPLOYEE

If someone calls claiming to be a Texas Department of Insurance employee offering to meet at one’s home to discuss insurance needs, it’s almost certainly a scam. That’s according to a TDI news release, which notes the agency only calls people who ask for assistance.

The agency’s fraud unit received a report from a person who was contacted by someone claiming to be a TDI employee and offering to come over and review insurance needs.

“The individual who received the call did the right thing by not providing any personal information and contacting us,” said Chris Davis, head of TDI’s Fraud Unit. “This may have been an attempt at identity theft or other crime.”

Anyone needing help with an insurance issue or suspecting insurance fraud can contact the TDI help line at

800-252-3439.

## ALL STATE OIL AND GAS RECORDS NOW ONLINE

Have you been wondering about that working pumpjack in the strip-mall parking lot in Longview? (Yes, there is one.) The Texas Railroad Commission has recently completed placing all historic oil and gas production records online.

The RRC database covers oil production dating back to 1931 and gas back to 1937. More than 1,300 rolls of microfilm containing about 2.2 million images in the RRC’s central records were digitized.

“This is a significant undertaking and a historic moment for the Commission,” Matthew Herzon with RRC, said. “Not only does it give the public quick and easy access to the information, but it can also save staff time that’s spent researching for public information requests. Requesters can now get historical production information with the click of a mouse if they wish, and our staff can devote time for other tasks.”



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ON FISHING

# Night fishing under the lights



**ON FISHING**

By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. He has been a licensed guide since 1998. michael.acosta@att.net

An alternative to beat the summer heat and to enjoy some great fishing is to fish at night. The night has other advantages such as generally less wind and no skiers or Jet Skis. A little breeze is still preferred, especially on those hot, humid and stale nights.

Fishing under the lights has been around forever. Most folks who live on the water have lights on their docks that attract fish. I have used a lantern before hanging off the edge of the boat to do the same thing.

The lights attract bugs, and the fish move in to feed on them. Yes, some of the fish do feed on the bugs. But it is usually the plankton that are attracted to the light, which then brings in the small fish and then the bigger fish.

The night lights available these days come in a variety of colors, but most agree that green lights are generally the best. Science will tell you that the most penetrating frequencies of light in the water are blue and green in the spectrum of available colors. White lights are still offered, and they do work. White has all the colors of the spectrum. However, the general consensus is green is all that you need. Some folks may disagree.

Most of all, the newer lights and some of the older lights are submersible. The big advantage to submersible lights is the fact that the bugs are kept at bay. Very little light is reflected up, which cuts down on the bugs. You know and I know that the bugs can get unbearable from a hanging white light.

The action can be tremendous under the lights. Concentrating the baitfish will bring in the predators and at times, the action will be outstanding, especially if the fish are in a feeding frenzy. Many indoor fishing docks across the country use lights to attract fish. It is a known technique.

There are many different portable lights on the market, and I'm aware of four types. They are floating sealed beam lights, fluorescent lights, LED lights and submersible halogen lights. All of these types of lights will do the job. There are pros and cons to each.

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights generally have the longest life and use the least amount of energy. They used to be priced out of the market, but currently, the prices are becoming competitive with other types of lights. Many of these types of lights will run the night on a few dry-cell batteries. LED lights come in a variety of colors and they can be configured in many different ways. Those I have seen are configured in a submersible vertical tube. Check the output in candlepower. Some of these lights that are currently available have a limited output.

Fluorescent lights are generally a floating or submerged vertical tube light that is put in the water vertically. There are some floating horizontal versions as well, but the vertical lights are preferred because you can position them at deeper depths if needed. They come in a variety of lengths and colors. Green is the most popular color, as I mentioned earlier. Fluorescent fishing lights have limits on the amount of light they put out but they also draw less current than the sealed-beam floating lights or halogens. Fluorescent submersible lights can be more expensive as you generally need a light longer than 3 feet (typically 4 feet) and maybe two to do the job. Fluorescent lights are typically thrown away at the end of their life, but the halogens and LED bulbs can be replaced. The smaller versions (less than 3 feet) have limited light and limited applications.

Submersible halogen lights operate under the sur-



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL ACOSTA

Beat the summer heat and do some night fishing.

face so there is minimal impact due to wind and waves, and you minimize the bug impact with the light under the water. These halogen lights will generally draw more current for the same level of lighting as fluorescents, but they are generally smaller, and you can buy replacement bulbs as I mentioned earlier. These can put out a tremendous amount of light and they can be positioned easily around the boat. It is advisable to have a dedicated battery on board for any DC night lights, especially those that will draw the extra current. Halogen lights are generally compact and are easy to carry versus the longer tubes for some of the other types of lights.

When night fishing on a boat with lights, it is a good idea to anchor the boat securely so that movement is minimized. Either tie the boat between two trees or double anchor. The floating lights you choose can

be placed next to the boat. The other submersible type lights can be lowered to a desired depth around the boat.

Wait a few minutes and the baitfish will move in. The bigger predators will more than likely be under

or on the edge. Be careful not to spook the predators. Work different depths until you locate the best depth. If for some reason the fish don't move in, move and find another potential spot.

If you decide to do some night fishing, make sure you

know the area where you are to fish. With less light, you need to be careful navigating especially with our low-water conditions. Every body of water I have ever been on looks different at night.

## FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury water temperatures are in the upper 80s and low 90s and the lake level is about 2.5 feet low. Thermocline is still present, and all the action is in the top 20 feet of water or less. Sand bass are good near Indian Harbor and DeCordova in 5 to 15 feet of water. Look for schooling activity early and late. Striped bass action is hit and miss, but when located, action is good on live bait or trolling jigs/crankbaits. Catfish continue to be good especially at night on cut bait. Crappie action is the best with limits common mid-lake near structure on small minnows. Largemouth bass on Lake Granbury are good to 7 pounds on Texas rigged worms working deeper docks and main lake points.

Lake Whitney striped bass limits on live bait are common on the lower ends near the Island and near Bee Bluffs. Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass are good on the lower end on live bait and down-rigged jigs with curly tail trailers.

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BOOK REVIEW

# 'Stay Awake': A chaotic thrill ride that won't let you go

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

There was no paper handy. That's your excuse for writing a phone number on the meat of your thumb. No pun intended, but it was handy but now you can't quite totally remove the ink and you're feeling like an eighth grader again. Even so, you've got the number and, as in the new novel, "Stay Awake" by Megan Goldin, you won't likely forget it. She was shocked to see that the leaves had turned color.

The last thing Liv Reese remembered was the sun across her keyboard in her office, the warmth of the day and taking a phone call. But now, without knowing how it had happened, she was sitting outside on a park bench, there was a chill in the air, a promise of snow and the leaves were falling. She was confused about that, just as she was confused about the mess on her hands. For some reason, she'd written all over them with a ball-point pen, numbers, notes, and the words "STAY AWAKE" and "WAKE UP."

She didn't recognize the clothes she was wearing. The park wasn't familiar, either. She had no idea where she lived anymore and she'd lost her phone. She returned to a workplace she knew, but it had changed; when she followed one of her inked notes and went to a nightclub called Nocturnal, they seemed to know her there. So why didn't Liv know herself?

And what else did she not remember? She had to know, quick.

Because the building she thought she lived in was surrounded by police and the news was filled with reports of a murder. Someone had killed an as-yet-unidentified man and had written the words "WAKE UP!" on the window in his blood, the same words Liv had, for some reason, scrawled on her own wrist.

She was sure she didn't know the man. She didn't remember ever being in the building, either, though she must've been inside because police had CCTV footage of the dead man entering with a dark-haired woman.

That woman was Liv. In addition to the book itself, want to know what else you'll need when you start reading "Stay Awake"?

Gloves. They'll keep you from leaving fingernail marks on everything you clutch in panic, due to the sky-high, gasping suspense and the stomach-dropping relief, repeat as necessary, inside this novel. Gloves will also give you something with which to mop your brow when you sweat from the chase that author Megan Goldin sends her readers on. Gloves will give you something to chew on instead of screaming, and they'll help you get a firm grip on your jaw as it drops into your lap at the twists and turns this novel takes through a purposefully chaotic, heart-racing, story-driving time

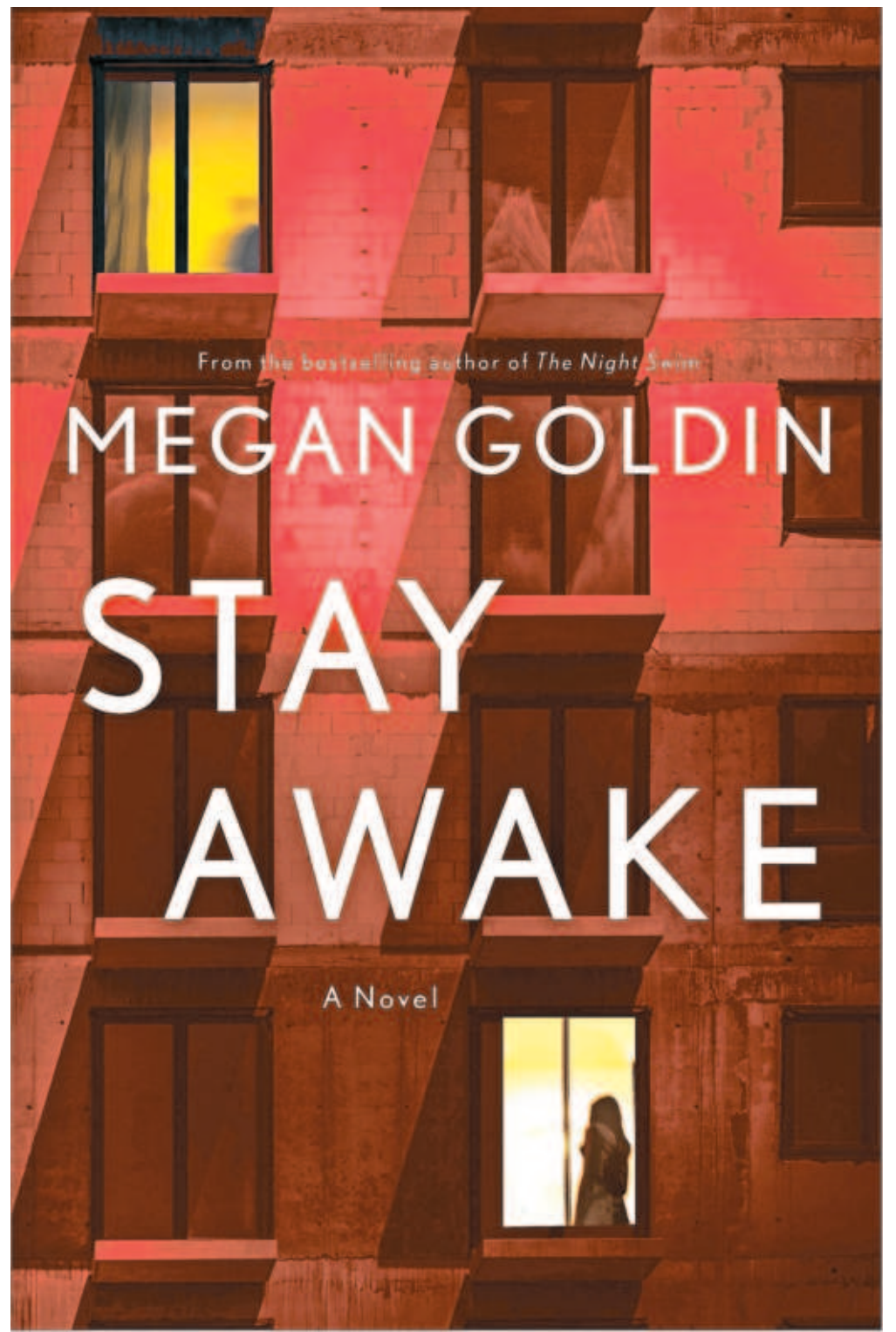
frame.

Now granted: super-rapid reality-loving armchair detectives may note a few gaping holes in the story here, things that poke holes in authenticity but that will settle nicely if you let them. So let them, and you'll learn that "Stay Awake" couldn't have been more aptly titled.



COURTESY PHOTO. Megan Goldin

"Stay Awake: A Novel" by Megan Goldin, c.2022, St. Martin's Press, \$27.99, 340 pages



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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## BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY

Leave early so you don't have to hurry!

**Safe is Better Than Short**

Take the safe path to school, not the shortest one. Help Amy find the best path to school.

**My Safety Story**

Finish the sentences using these words:

CARS ALL BUCKLE CORNERS RUN WAYS

HELMET CROSSWALKS STREET CROSSING

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I take time to \_\_\_\_\_ (YOUR NAME) \_\_\_\_\_ be safe. I always look \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

I walk, and don't \_\_\_\_\_.

I never walk between parked \_\_\_\_\_ . I cross streets only at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

I \_\_\_\_\_ up when riding in a car and wear a \_\_\_\_\_ when riding my bike.

## Know your bus danger zone!

Many children are injured each year while getting on or off school buses. This is because the bus driver cannot see certain areas around the bus. The danger zones are shown below.

Avoid these danger zones by always taking 10 giant steps away from the bus after you exit. Always wait for the bus driver or another adult to tell you when it is safe to cross the street.

How many differences can you find between these two school buses?

**Before and After Photo**

Select a photo from the newspaper. What do you think happened before this picture was taken? What do you think happened after?

Standards Link: Reasoning: Students distinguish between observation and inference.

**Write On!**

### Back to School Safety

Be safe! Write three safety tips for kids going back to school.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Do the math to reveal these important car safety tips.

**The back seat is the safest place to sit until age \_\_\_\_\_**

**3+3+2+5= \_\_\_\_\_**

**You're safer sitting in a booster seat until you are \_\_\_\_\_**

**2+2= \_\_\_\_\_**

**3+3+3= \_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_ inches tall.**

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums.

---

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

DIFFERENCE  
CORNERS  
BOOSTER  
WALKING  
SAFETY  
DANGER  
BUCKLE  
HELMET  
STREET  
PARKED  
RIDING  
ZONE  
SEAT  
CARS  
BUS

B	R	T	E	E	R	T	S	U	B
B	S	E	A	T	E	R	E	S	T
U	P	S	G	M	E	Z	A	W	F
C	E	A	L	N	O	T	Y	A	G
K	Y	E	R	N	A	W	T	L	N
L	H	O	E	K	A	D	E	K	I
E	C	N	E	R	E	F	F	I	D
Y	S	C	A	R	S	D	A	N	I
R	E	T	S	O	O	B	S	G	R

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together:

### COMPLETE THE RULES

Select a word to complete each safety rule. Then, cut out these rules and put them on your refrigerator or bathroom mirror as a daily reminder.

WRIST

CHANGE

ADULT

KNEE

RIDE

CLOTHING

HELMET

FACING

DRAWSTRINGS

## SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!

1. Wear light colored \_\_\_\_\_ at night.
2. Do not wear clothing with \_\_\_\_\_ or jewelry that can get caught on playground equipment.
3. Walk or skate \_\_\_\_\_ traffic, so you can see oncoming traffic.
4. Wear an approved bicycle \_\_\_\_\_ if you are riding a bike or scooter or skating. If you travel on skates or a skateboard, also wear \_\_\_\_\_ guards and elbow and \_\_\_\_\_ pads.
5. Don't walk or skate alone.
6. Before you go anywhere, CHECK FIRST with the \_\_\_\_\_ in charge. (Check in again if you \_\_\_\_\_ your plans.)
7. Never take a \_\_\_\_\_ with someone without checking with your parents first.

Standards Link: Health: Know concepts and practices concerning injury prevention and safety.



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817-989-9800
- ORTHODOX**  
ARCHANGEL GABRIEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1157 S. E. Parkway (Jacksboro Highway), Azle  
817-752-8255
- OTHER**  
ALIENTO DE DIOS  
2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
817-521-4694
- BETTER LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
3131 E. Hwy 199, Spt  
817-677-2300
- CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
2233 Hwy 199 East, Springtown  
817-221-LIFE (5433)
- FAMILY CHURCH  
9 miles S. of Springtown on Hwy. 51  
817-599-7655
- GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH  
2964 W. Hwy 114, Paradise  
940-969-2427
- HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH  
1227 Old Cottondale Road, Springtown, 817-220-7177
- THE HOUSE OF PRAYER  
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown  
817-221-2551
- POWERHOUSE OF PRAISE CHURCH  
1649 S.E. Parkway, Azle  
817-319-7364
- BRANDED CROSS COWBOY CHURCH  
3282 FM 2048, Boyd 76023  
817-755-7021
- SECRET PLACE MINISTRIES  
112 Optimist Rd., Springtown  
682-229-1433
- GOSPEL GATHERING FELLOWSHIP  
7315 Silver Creek Rd at Flatrock Rd, Azle  
817-313-1793
- LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH  
6409 FM 730 S., Azle  
817-444-4311
- LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH  
1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay  
817-444-3547
- NEW LIGHTED WAY  
624 Harbor Dr. Circle, Azle  
817-444-1577
- NORTHWEST TEMPLE OF PRAISE  
6781 Jacksboro Hwy., Lake Worth  
817-909-5627
- PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH  
8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's
- THE HOUSE OF PRAYER  
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown  
817-221-2551
- THE RANCH COWBOY COUNTRY CHURCH  
14600 FM 730 North, Azle (Briar)  
817-909-5627
- REAL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP  
202 Pearson Lane, Azle  
817-677-5963
- SOULS HARBOR  
11701 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-726-2065
- WESTERN HARVEST FELLOWSHIP CENTER  
6577 Old Springtown Rd., Weatherford  
817-523-2855 or 817-995-9087
- SHEPHERD'S HEART CHURCH  
14435 FM 730 N • Azle  
817-444-7777
- WESTERN STAR COWBOY CHURCH  
790 CR 3696 • Paradise 76073  
817-688-6887

Clarks Precision Machine & Tool  
CPMT 636 Profit St., Azle, Tx

**45 Years of Quality**

ISO 9001:2001 Compliant Phone 817-444-2533  
Check us out on our web site B.J. Clark  
www.clarksmachine.com bjc@clarksmachine.com

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR HOMETOWN?**

Subscribe today to keep up-to-date  
Azle News: 817-270-3340  
Springtown Epigraph: 817-220-7217

Celebrating over 25 years in business

**AZLE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC**

817-444-HELP (4357) Rodney Gatlin, D.C.  
400 Boyd Court

www.azlechiropractic.com

Get your business noticed!

**817-270-3340**  
Call Johnna to reserve this space.

Want readers to FIND YOU?

Place your ad here!  
Call **817-270-3340**

Place your ad here today!

**817-270-3340**  
or 817-220-7217

**TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
"A Commitment to Service and Savings"

Actively Supporting our Communities!

Double your impact with Print & Online Advertising!

Call Johnna for details  
**817-270-3340**

**Advertise Here**

Contact us for details.  
**817-270-3340 or 817-220-7217**

**HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH**  
1227 Old Cottondale • 817-220-7177

"Caring about what Jesus cares about... You!"

Compliments of  
**Rural Gas Supply**

**PROPANE** 140 W. MAIN ST.  
817-444-4613

"In business since 1946"

**Joe Rider Propane, Inc.**

**PROPANE TANKS**

**817-237-3325**

**White's Funeral Homes**  
Our family serving your family since 1908

Bob White, Anita White and Zack Bellenger

Full Service Funeral Home  
Cremation Services  
Pre-Need Plans

Azle • Springtown  
Mineral Wells • Weatherford  
817-444-3211 • www.whitesfuneral.com

**Your Ad Here** Newspaper Advertising Works!

Call Johnna for details TODAY  
**817-270-3340**

**Advertise Your Business With Us**  
and maximise your visibility!

Contact us about advertising solutions.

**817-270-3340**  
**817-220-7217**



# VOTE FOR YOUR LOCAL FAVORITES!



# Enter for your chance to WIN \$50

**United Country Real Estate** | Texas Acres and Avenues

323 E. Hwy 199, Springtown TX 76082  
**682-615-7008**  
[www.TexasAcresandAvenues.com](http://www.TexasAcresandAvenues.com)  
[info@texasacresandavenues.com](mailto:info@texasacresandavenues.com)

Mon-Sat Breakfast: 5:30 AM - 10 AM | Lunch & Dinner: 10 AM - 7:30 PM

## TACO TIME MEXICAN GRILL

<b>Biscuits</b>		<b>Burritos</b>
Bacon.....\$1.99	Sausage.....\$1.89	Sausage, Egg & Cheese.....\$2.99
Sausage & Egg.....\$2.29	Bacon, Egg & Cheese.....\$2.99	Bacon, Egg & Cheese.....\$2.99
Sausage & Bacon.....\$2.29	Chorizo, Potato & Egg.....\$2.99	Sausage & Cheese.....\$2.99
Sausage & Cheese.....\$2.29	Potato, Egg & Cheese.....\$2.99	Sausage, Egg & Cheese.....\$2.99
Sausage, Egg & Cheese.....\$2.99	Quesadilla.....Chicken or Beef \$4.99	Sausage, Egg, Cheese & Bacon.....\$3.29

432 TX-199 817-523-4422 • 529 N Main St. 817-523-2888

## Tom Samples Pest Control

Your complete pest control service!

**817-915-2470**

2006 BEST of Parker County  
 2008 BEST of Parker County  
 2017 BEST of Parker County

## Alvin Ord's SANDWICH SHOP

Salad Bar • Daily Sandwich Specials • Blue Bell Ice Cream

400 E. Hwy 199, SPRINGTOWN  
**817-220-0028**

## AZLE WESTERN WEAR

3221 E. Hwy 199  
**817-444-2855**  
 Next to Boomtown Furniture

## Howell's Western Cafe

401 HWY. 199 W. SPRINGTOWN

Daily Lunch Specials  
 Breakfast Served All Day

Home Cooked Meals!

Sun-Thurs 6 AM - 10 PM  
 Fri & Sat 6 AM - MIDNIGHT

## Mr. Jim's Pizza

it's the crust!

**LARGE DEAL**  
 2 Toppings or Signature Pizza  
**\$14.99**

[CAAN] This coupon is not valid with any 3rd-party delivery service. Multiple offers/coupons allowed per order. Only one offer/coupon per item. Offer good at participating stores only. Delivery minimum & charge may apply. Customer responsible for all applicable taxes. Expires 1/10/23

417 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
 817-523-2255 • [www.mrjims.pizza](http://www.mrjims.pizza)

## ON THE SQUARE GUNS & AMMO

GUNS • AMMO • GUN REPAIR  
 NEW • PREOWNED • CONSIGNMENT

101A N Main St in Springtown  
 On The Square • 817-538-7557  
[SquareGuns.com](http://SquareGuns.com)

## Sutton PRINTING

**250 Digital Business Cards FOR \$29.99**

UPS • FedEx

DIGITAL & GLOSS FULL COLOR BUSINESS CARDS  
 GLOSS FULL • COLOR POST CARDS • YARD SIGNS  
 FULL COLOR BANNERS • COPY PAPER

119 Industrial Ave. Azle, Next to Dollar General  
**817-444-2222**

**Winners will be announced October 27th in the Best of Parker County Special Section!**

### People

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Best Accountant                      | Best Insurance Agent             |
| Best Attorney                        | Best Investment Advisor          |
| Best Bank Teller (Include Bank Name) | Best Massage Therapist           |
| Best Barber                          | Best Mechanic                    |
| Best Builder/Developer               | Best Optometrist/Ophthalmologist |
| Best Car Salesman                    | Best Real Estate Agent           |
| Best Chiropractor                    | Best Tattoo Artist               |
| Best Dentist                         | Best Veterinarian                |
| Best Doctor                          | Best Waitstaff (Entire Staff)    |
| Best Hair Stylist                    |                                  |

### Food & Drink

- |                 |                          |                       |                |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Best Asian Food | Best Catering            | Best Happy Hour       | Best Salsa     |
| Best Bakery     | Best Catfish             | Best Lunch Menu       | Best Snow Cone |
| Best Bar/Tavern | Best Chicken             | Best Mexican Food     | Best Steak     |
| Best BBQ        | Best Chicken Fried Steak | Best Nutrition Drinks | Best Sushi     |
| Best Breakfast  | Best Cup of Coffee       | Best Pizza            | Best Sweet Tea |
| Best Burger     | Best Donuts              | Best Salad            | Best Taco      |

### Goods & Services

- |                              |                                  |                               |                             |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Best A/C-Heating Service     | Best Electrician                 | Best Liquor Store             | Best Produce                |
| Best Accounting Service      | Best Electric Provider           | Best Manicure/Pedicure        | Best Propane Company        |
| Best Antique Store           | Best Embroidery/Screen Printing  | Best Mattress Store           | Best Real Estate Agency     |
| Best Apartments              | Best Feed Store                  | Best Meat Store               | Best Rehabilitation Center  |
| Best Auto Repair Shop        | Best Fitness Facility            | Best Medical Clinic           | Best Resale Shop            |
| Best Auto Paint and Body     | Best Flooring Company            | Best Music Lessons            | Best Roofing Company        |
| Best Bank                    | Best Florist                     | Best New Car Dealership       | Best Spa                    |
| Best Barber Shop             | Best Funeral Home                | Best Nursing Home             | Best Septic Service         |
| Best Bed and Breakfast       | Best Furniture Store             | Best Oil Change               | Best Tanning Salon          |
| Best Boat Repair Shop        | Best Grocery Store               | Best Pest Control             | Best Tire Store             |
| Best Car Wash                | Best Gun Dealer                  | Best Pet Grooming             | Best Title Company          |
| Best Carpet Cleaning Service | Best Hair Salon                  | Best Pharmacy                 | Best Tractor/Lawn Equipment |
| Best Clothing Store          | Best Hardware Store              | Best Physical Therapy         | Best Trash Service          |
| Best Computer Repair         | Best Home Health Agency          | Best Place of Worship         | Best Veterinary Clinic      |
| Best Convenience/Gas Store   | Best Retirement/Assistant Living | Best Place to Buy Wine        | Best Wedding/Event Venue    |
| Best Day Care                | Best Insurance Agency            | Best Plumbing Company         |                             |
| Best Dentist Office          | Best Jewelry Store               | Best Pool Builder/Supplier    |                             |
| Best Dry Cleaner             | Best Lawn & Landscape Service    | Best Pre-Owned Car Dealership |                             |

**Vote for the Best in Parker County**

Decide the Best in Parker County in 109 categories

The Best of Parker County is underway and we are giving one lucky voter a \$50 Visa gift card just for voting. Votes can be submitted on ballots printed in The Springtown Epigraph each week until Sept. 1, 2022. The Best of Parker County contest features all your local businesses in three divisions. Food & Drink, People and Goods & Services.

You may enter a new business for any category and once the business is validated it will be added to the list and the vote will be counted.

Voting deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 7, by 5 p.m.  
 Please see complete contest rules.  
 Questions: call **817-270-3340**.

**2 WAYS TO ENTER:**  
 Mail Ballots to P.O.Box 557, Springtown, Texas 76082  
 or drop off ballot at the Springtown office 109 E. First St. On the Square in Springtown  
 Hurry, entries must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## MTX

ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

**682-290-6017**  
[brandymtxroof@gmail.com](mailto:brandymtxroof@gmail.com)  
[MTXROOFING.COM](http://MTXROOFING.COM)

**SERVICES**

- GUTTERS
- RESIDENTIAL ROOFING
- STORM RESTORATION
- ROOF REPAIR

**READERS CHOICE:**  
 The Best of Parker County is a consumer promotion sponsored by the Springtown Epigraph. Ballots will be published until September 1 for you the reader to cast your vote, telling us what you think are the "Best of" in Parker County.

**CONTEST RULES:**

- One entry per person. Entries must be on original newspaper ballots, no machine copies will be counted. Ballots must be at least 50% completed. Name, address and phone number must be filled in to be counted. Multiple ballots that appear to be from the same person will not be counted.
- Final decisions on ballots, categories and winning entries will be made by the Springtown Epigraph.
- All entries must be received by 5 p.m., Wednesday Sept 7, 2022. (A random drawing of entries will determine the \$50 winner.)

## Springtown Flower Shop

**817-220-0033**

Floral and Gifts for all Occasions  
[www.springtownflowershop.com](http://www.springtownflowershop.com)  
[springtownflowershop@gmail.com](mailto:springtownflowershop@gmail.com)  
 311 E. Hwy 199 • Springtown

## Star Cleaners

Savings You Can Measure

Dry Cleaning • Starch/No Starch  
 Hand Wash • Wash & Fold • Alteration

M-F in by 9 AM • Pickup at 5:30 PM • Hours M-F 7-7 Sat 9-2  
**817-523-4644**



## CLASSIFIED

817-270-3340 - Azle - classified@azlenews.net

817-220-7217 - Springtown - shirley@springtown-epigraph.net

### Ad Classifications

- |                              |                                 |                               |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1... Air Condition/Heating   | 24..... Electrician             | 46..... Looking to Buy        | 69..... Sand/Gravel                    |
| 2..... Antiques              | 25..... Equipment & Tool Rental | 47..... Lost & Found          | 70..... Septic Tanks                   |
| 3..... Appliances            | 26..... Excavating              | 48... Maintenance/Repairs     | 71..... Sewing/Alterations             |
| 4..... Appliance Repair      | 27..... Exterminating           | 49... Masonry/Stonework       | 72..... Sewer Service                  |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts           | 28..... Farm Equipment          | 50... Mobile Home Service     | 73..... TV/Radio                       |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving        | 29..... Fencing                 | 51..... Motorcycles           | 74..... Tractor Service                |
| 7..... Auctions              | 30..... Firewood                | 52..... Movers                | 75..... Upholstery                     |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks         | 31..... Free For Sale           | 53..... Musical Instruments   | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners                |
| 9..... Auto Repair Service   | 32..... Furniture               | 54..... Music Lessons         | 77..... Wanted                         |
| 10..... Backhoe Service      | 33..... Garage & Estate Sales   | 55..... Miscellaneous         | 78..... Well Drilling                  |
| 11..... Boats, Motors        | 34..... Garden/Mowing Svc       | 56 Party Planning/Events      | 79..... Welding                        |
| 12..... Bookkeeping          | 35 ..... Hauling                | 57..... Pets/Livestock        | 80..... Lots/Acreage                   |
| 13..... Business Opportunity | 36..... Hay                     | 58..... Piano Service         | 81..... Business & Commercial Property |
| 14..... Campers/Trailers     | 37..... Health/Fitness          | 59..... Pool Service          | 82..... RV's for Rent                  |
| 15..... Carports/Patios      | 38..... Help Wanted             | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale                |
| 16..... Equipment Repair     | 39 ..... Home Improvement       | 61..... Personal              | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent          |
| 17..... Carpet Service       | 40 ..... House Leveling         | 62..... Plumbing              | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale          |
| 18..... Catering             | 41 ..... House Cleaning         | 63..... Public Notice         | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots            |
| 19..... Cement Work          | 42..... Hunting                 | 64..... Photography           | 87..... Rent Furnished                 |
| 20..... Demolition           | 43..... Janitorial Service      | 65..... Printing              | 88..... Rent Unfurnished               |
| 21..... Child Care           | 44..... Job Wanted              | 66..... Roofing               | 89..... Wanted to Rent                 |
| 22..... Cosmetics            |                                 | 67..... Recycling             |  |
| 23..... Computers/Services   |                                 | 68..... Storage               |  |

### RATES

16 Words or Less:

Combo (Azle & Springtown) Only \$10.00 per week!

Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word  
Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee

Classified boxed display ads also available for \$9.00 per column inch

(All ads must be paid in advance unless you have previously established credit)

### CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY BY 4:30 P.M.

Most ads require payment in advance, but we do accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS by phone.



Reach more than 8,000 households with combo advertising in the Azle News and the Springtown Epigraph.

*Nobody does it better!*

**006 Asphalt Paving**  
BYRUM CONSTRUCTION  
Asphalt Paving  
• Driveways • Parking Lots  
• Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating  
• Asphalt Millings • Gravel  
Bruce Byrum  
Azle, Texas 817-690-2429

www.azlenews.net  
www.springtown-epigraph.net

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**  
KINWAY IRRIGATION SYSTEM  
REPAIR 817-810-8575.

**039 Help Wanted**  
Looking for mature people to work with small animals. Must have reliable transportation. Call for more information 817-926-3300.

**039 Help Wanted**

**009 Auto Repair Service**  
**Rainwater's**  
Transmission & Auto Repair  
Transmission • Brakes • A/C • Engine Service  
Specializing in Farm, Ranch & Diesel Pickups  
201 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown **LOCALLY & FAMILY OWNED!**  
**682-615-7250 \* 817-766-3852**

**Ruben's YARD SERVICE**  
Tree Service • Stump Grinding  
Yard Clean-Up  
**940-730-0916**

Springtown ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Monitors. Training available. Contact the Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

MAINSTREAM group homes are hiring for FT/PT direct care staff. Weekday 3:30pm-8:30am shifts as well as 24-hour weekend shifts. Work 2 days a week, get paid to sleep, and have a full-time job! Paid training, benefits, bonuses, and OT opportunities. Start \$9.00/hr with quick advancement possible. Call 817-270-2747, Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm.

**LEON'S TREE SERVICE**  
Expert take downs  
Stump Grinding  
Residential/Commercial  
Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates  
**817-371-8597**

**AZLE NEWS!**

**WANTED**  
Property Maintenance Labor/Person  
Gene Thompson & Associates  
**817-246-4646**

**014 Campers & Trailers**  
  
2017 Dutchman Voltage  
Excellent condition, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8. 5th Wheel Toy Hauler. \$67000.00  
Call or text 817-437-2287

**024 Electrician**  
**E-Conn Electric**  
Service, Remodel, New Construction  
Insured/BBB Accredited  
**817-615-7164**  
*Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!*  
C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

**Help Wanted in Aurora/Alvord Area**  
• Mechanic  
• Welder  
• Equipment Operators  
Competitive pay, some benefits. M-F day shift only. Overtime weekly.  
**For information call 214-802-5157**

**019 Cement Work**  
Allen Chesney Concrete  
All Types of Concrete Work  
Residential - Commercial  
Foundations, driveways, sand, gravel, demolition, haul-off, retaining walls  
817-271-4541

**026 Excavating**  
**REED EXCAVATING**  
• SITE PREPARATION • GRAVEL ROADS  
• LOT CLEARING • PARKING LOTS  
• LEVELING • DEMOLITION  
• FINAL GRADE • STOCK TANKS  
• LAND EROSION  
Dump Truck Hauling **817-919-3696**

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**  
**YARD SERVICES**  
BOBCAT WORK  
SAND INSTALLATION  
FENCING  
STUMP GRINDING  
**817-371-8597**

Concrete Services, Patios, Driveways, Sidewalks, Retaining Walls, Foundations, Stone Walls. Free Estimates. 817-371-8597.

ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATING  
Tanks • House Pads • Clearing  
**HASTY EXCAVATING**  
Also ..  
Sand • Top Soil • Gravel  
**817-523-7248 • 817-239-6215**

**STUMP GRINDING**  
Don't dig it! Grind it!  
1 or 100 - We can do it.  
\$85 minimum within 5 mi.  
**817-237-5592**

**Kiley Chesney Construction**  
Dirt & Concrete Work  
Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons  
Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways  
Kiley Chesney, Owner  
Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

**029 Fencing**  
BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.  
  
KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION  
All Types Fences - Tractor Work  
817-846-6645

**IRRIGATION REPAIR**  
Residential/Commercial  
License# LI007825  
\$85 Service Call

**020 Demolition**  
**MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE**  
We Create Vacancy  
• Tear Down • Barns  
• Removal • Houses  
• Haul Off • Bobcat  
• Mobile Service  
Homes • Dirt/Gravel  
• Garages Spreading  
  
FREE ESTIMATES  
**817-996-7887**  
253 Eagles Way, Springtown

**031 Free**  
King size bed frame & large bean bag, you pick up. 719-755-2054 or 608-295-4778.

**OUTDOOR SCENE**  
**682-553-1560**

**024 Electrician**  
BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.  
All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.  
Free Estimates. 817-675-4921  
www.bulldawgelectric.com.  
TECL#25253.

**032 For Sale**  
ONGOING SALE  
New-2 Microwave Ovens.  
Electric Cook Top. 5 Pressure washers. 7 Lawnmower's.  
Garden Tiller. 8 Generators.  
3 Torque Wrenches.  
5645 Sabatheny Rd.  
Weatherford. 817-412-0125.

**Chad's Tree Service**  
Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding  
Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing  
**817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943**  
**817-800-6059** CELL  
Insured for your protection **FREE ESTIMATES**

**024 Electrician**  
BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.  
All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.  
Free Estimates. 817-675-4921  
www.bulldawgelectric.com.  
TECL#25253.

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**  
Need your lawn mowed, trimmed or cleaned up? Need your trees trimmed or cut? Any job big or small give Scooter a call. Free Estimates. 817-766-3834.

Save a Shelter Animal.  
Find your forever Friend  


**KARL KLEMENT**  
Body Shop Porter  
Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.  
  
Parts Drivers/ Warehouse Associates  
Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Overtime available and room for advancement. Monday-Friday work week.  
  
Lube Tech  
Experience a plus, but willing to train the right candidates. Must have a valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be responsible and dependable. Monday-Friday work week.  
  
Wholesale Sales Associate  
\*\*Sign-on Bonus\*\*  
Looking for fulltime wholesale sales associates. Experience is a PLUS! Ford Certified preferred but NOT REQUIRED. Apply in person @ 605 N Business 287 Ste 102, Decatur, TX 76234.  
  
Parts/Service Counter Sales  
\*\*Sign-on Bonus\*\*  
Experience highly preferred, but will train the right candidate. Must have excellent customer service skills and ability to work well in a process driven environment.

**KLEMENT**  
No Positions Available at This Time

**KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.**  
(Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)  
No Positions Available at This Time

**Karl Klement Properties, Inc.**  
Administrative Assistant  
Ideal candidate will possess an administrative background as well as strong customer service skills; however willing to train the right candidate. Must be dependable, proficient in MS Word and Excel, multi-tasker, and able to thrive in a fast paced environment.  
  
Facilities Manager  
Must be customer service oriented, have a clean driving record and be able to pass pre-employment screening. Experience a plus, but will train the right person!  
  
For consideration of all positions apply in person:  
**605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas**  
**OR CALL Human Resources Dept:**  
**Jodi Pettis, Alyssa Jacobs, or Lynn Mallwitz**  
**@ 940-627-6362**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**ADS STEEL SERVICE**  
Now Hiring!  
Experienced Fitter & Shop Labor, Competitive Wages, Health Insurance, Paid Holidays and Vacations  
817-763-8223  
  
Or apply in person at  
7461 W. Vickery Blvd.,  
Ft. Worth, TX 76116

Help wanted continued on next page...



**817-270-3340 - AZLE**  
**817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN**

Deadline:  
 4:30 PM Monday

# Classifieds

**039 Help Wanted**

**Lindsey State Jail Current Openings**  
**Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager • Testing Clerk**  
**Recruiting Sgt. • Chaplain • Education Counselor**  
**Assistant Maintenance Supervisor – Lock Tech**  
 PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.  
 Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer. EOE Starting June 9th 2022. A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows – Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After six months there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour.  
**Apply online at [www.mtctrains.com](http://www.mtctrains.com) or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department. Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled**  
**LINDSEY STATE JAIL**

**Hiring Route Drivers for Our Growing Company!**  
**\*\*\$1,000.00 Hiring Bonus\*\***

Seeking Route Drivers that are hardworking, enthusiastic, with a strong motivation for success! Interpersonal and customer service skills are strongly recommended. Must have a valid TX DL with an acceptable driving record

Join our team at Klement Distribution, Inc. delivering Hershey's Ice Cream! Not only will you be putting smiles on people's faces, you will earn a great income for yourself!

As a Route Driver you will unload, stock and rotate products, collect and deposit client payments and move on to your next stop, always ensuring that our customers are satisfied!

We offer:

- Competitive salary
- Paid training, vacation and holidays
- Promote from within advancement opportunities!
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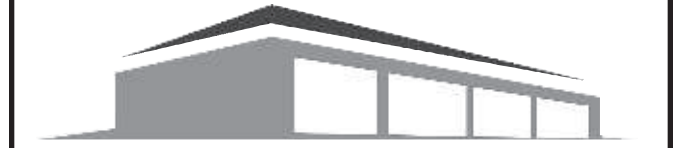
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## ACROSS

- 1 "March Madness" org.
- 5 Twain's Huckleberry
- 6 Alan of Texas-based "The Big Land"
- 7 Cola
- 8 in 2022, gas in Texas cost more than \$4 gallon
- 9 an emoji is a modern-day state where TX Buddy Holly died
- 16 similarities between two things
- 19 TXism: "of spit and vinegar" (energetic man)
- 21 TX Rodney Crowell wrote song "Til Control Again"
- 22 TXism: "up juice" (coffee)
- 27 TXism: "dog won't hunt"
- 28 Texas has abortion law
- 29 Texas Tech winning Lady Raiders coach, Sharp (1982-2006)
- 30 TXism: "gave me a dance" (runaround)
- 32 "Traveling Wilbury" Petty, with TX Roy Orbison (init.)
- 33 you can go salt ing from South Padre Island
- 36 underground part of a plant
- 37 Texas actor Tommy Jones
- 38 infantile, childish
- 39 TXism: "between a rock and a hard place"
- 41 "One place, one Ranger"
- 42 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse cat"
- 45 Texans Houston and Donaldson
- 46 San Antonio priv. univer.
- 47 TX Buddy Holly's "True Love"
- 48 quick light blow
- 49 small piers
- 52 TXism: "about as clear as River mud"
- 53 rowing blade
- 54 fish propeller
- 55 med. abbr. for Lou Gehrig's disease

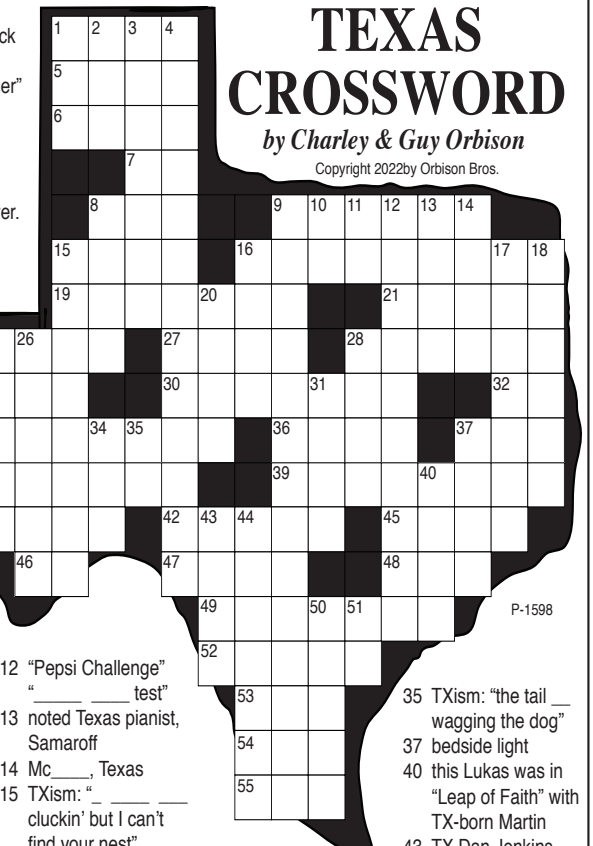
## DOWN

- 12 "Pepsi Challenge" test
- 13 noted Texas pianist, Samaro
- 14 Mc Texas
- 15 TXism: "cluckin' but I can't find your nest"
- 16 "sounds like a messes with Texas"
- 17 shot from a concealed location
- 20 something is wrong (2 wds.)
- 22 before noon time
- 23 how Texans might pronounce "no"
- 24 drearily dull
- 25 TX Kristofferson 1976 drama: "is Born"
- 26 TXism: "chompin' at" (eager)
- 28 auction bid (2 wds.)
- 31 TXism: "busier than in a truck stop"
- 34 TXism: "hissey"
- 35 TXism: "the tail wagging the dog"
- 37 bedside light
- 40 this Lukas was in "Leap of Faith" with TX-born Martin
- 43 TX Dan Jenkins 1982 novel: "Oklahoma"
- 44 TX B.J. Thomas' "The New York Woman"
- 50 birds found on the Texas coast
- 51 TX Charley Pride's "Rather Love You" (1971)

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# LIVING 50+



A Special Section of the Azle News | Springtown Epigraph • WEDNESDAY, August 17, 2022

## How to plan for a post-50 career change

*Balance between your professional and personal lives*

Professionals change careers for many reasons. Some do so in pursuit of a higher salary, while others seek a more even balance between their personal and professional lives.

Career changes can renew a person's passion for working, which can grow stale for individuals who have been doing the same job for years on end. Though there's not necessarily a bad time to change careers, there are times when making such a transition carries more risk. Such is the case for individuals over 50. Many individuals over 50 may not have the financial obligations they had when they were younger, as children may have grown up and moved out of the house. That can make changing careers after 50 more palatable. However, some individuals in their 50s may be hesitant to leave the security of an established career behind in favor of



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SEE CHANGE | C2 Individuals mulling a career change after 50 can take these steps to make such a transition less risky.

## What to do about wellness after 50

Reaching one's 50th birthday in optimal health is an accomplishment to be proud of. The hard work required to be healthy in midlife includes adhering to a nutritious diet and exercising regularly. Once individuals cross the threshold and enter their 50s, they can look to some additional strategies to maintain their physical and mental well-being for decades to come.

- Get a pet. Many people 50 and older qualify as 'empty nesters,' a term applied to adults whose children have grown up and moved out of their homes. Some empty nesters experience a phenomenon known as 'empty nest syndrome,' which the Mayo Clinic notes can be marked by feelings of sadness or loss. Pets can help people over 50 with no children at home overcome feelings linked to empty nest syndrome. In 2018, the University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging found that 86 percent of pet owners felt their pets make them feel loved while 73 percent said their pets provided a sense of purpose. Pets also can ensure individuals over 50 stay physically active and provide opportunities to connect with other people.

- Prioritize learning. Whether it's taking music lessons, going back to school or mastering a new hobby, learning has a profound effect on aging brains. For example, a 2013 study published in the journal Psychological Science found that memory function is im-

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**As adults age, they can work to prevent balance issues that increase their risk for falling.**



SEE WELLNESS | C2



RETIREMENT

# How small business owners can create an exit plan



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**Decide on your long-term role within the organization. Some business owners want to remain involved, while others want to divest entirely.**

Millions of people across the globe dream of owning their own business. Such dreams come true every day, and small business owners often cite freedom and autonomy as two of the most rewarding parts of owning a business.

Small business owners nearing retirement can look back with pride on the business they built. And as retirement draws closer, a successful exit plan can ensure the business keeps going in the years to come. No two businesses are the same, so an exit plan that works for one firm won't necessarily work for another. But these are some general strategies that can help small business owners nearing retirement age ensure a successful transition when the time comes for them to call it a career.

- Work with a consultant. Consultants have experience in a variety of situations, including the develop-

ment and implementation of exit plans. Business owners who need help finding a consultant can speak to fellow small business owners in the community or ask their financial advisor for a recommendation.

- Decide on your long-term role. Some business owners want to remain involved after retirement, while others want to divest themselves entirely. Business owners must give ample consideration to what they want their long-term role to be. If they want to remain somewhat involved, then developing a new organizational structure, including who will have final say

on important decisions, will be necessary.

- Pick and share a target date for the transition. A deadline for the transition to new leadership will ensure everyone at the company treats it seriously. Target dates can change, but the establishment of the date can motivate business owners to make the changes necessary to ensure a smooth transition. A target date gives those who will be assuming leadership roles time to reorganize staff so the business continues without missing a beat once the change at the top goes into effect. Target dates also give staff ample time to learn and prepare for new roles they may move into once the new leadership takes over.

- Welcome feedback. Soliciting feedback from those who will be affected by the exit plan increases the chances of a more successful transition once the target date arrives. This also gives owners a chance to gauge potential successors' interest in taking the reins. Some potential successors may prefer to stay in their current roles, and owners should not assume that everyone aspires to be head honcho.

- Make the plan known. Once the exit plan has been established and all affected parties have accepted it, business owners can make it known to the rest of the company. This helps everyone prepare for the transition, which should make things go more smoothly for owners' successors.

## CHANGE

FROM PAGE 1

something new. Hesitance about job prospects after 50 also can make some less likely to take the plunge into a new career.

Though hesitancy about a career change after 50 is understandable, a recent survey from the American Institute for Economic Research found that 82 percent of workers who responded to the survey were able to successfully transition to a new career after age 45. In addition, projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that labor force participation among individuals aged 65 and over would increase significantly by 2022, nearly doubling the rate of participation in 1990. Those figures suggest that a midlife career change is not necessarily the same thing as a late-career career change. That should give professionals the confidence they need to successfully transition to a new career.

Individuals mulling a ca-

reer change after 50 also can take these steps to make such a transition less risky.

- Pay down as much debt as possible. Financial freedom can be an ally for individuals 50 and over who want to change careers. Career changes often require a pay cut, so individuals who can pay off their mortgages, consumer debts and/or auto loans prior to making a career change may find the transition to a lower income goes more smoothly than it might if they're still carrying such sizable financial commitments.

- Make plans to delay retirement. As BLS data indicates, individuals who want to delay retirement certainly won't be alone. Delaying retirement affords individuals more time to save, and a financial advisor can help adults over 50 come up with a new retirement plan that reflects their willingness to work longer. Delaying retirement also means delaying withdrawals from retirement savings accounts, which can provide peace of mind against a loss of income resulting

from a career change.

- Downsize your lifestyle. Even a post-50 career change that will require a significant drop in income can be doable for professionals who downsize their lifestyles. Empty nesters can consider moving into a smaller home, while travelers can cut back on the number of trips they take each year. Cutbacks won't necessarily be easy, but they can be worth it for individuals looking for new career challenges.

- Go back to school. Much like young people go to college before entering the professional arena, adults over 50 who want to change careers may need to go back to school to improve their career prospects. Remote learning and part-time schooling can make juggling a career and school more manageable.

A successful career change after 50 is entirely possible for individuals willing to make some sacrifices to be happier in their professional lives.

## WELLNESS

FROM PAGE 1

proved by engagement in demanding everyday tasks. That study reported that people who learned new skills experienced greater memory improvement than people who only socialized or participated in activities that were not as cognitively engaging.

- Make an effort to improve balance. Various factors contribute to a decline in balance as adults age. For example, a decline in muscle mass that begins when people are in their 30s is a normal part of aging. Over

time, that natural decline affects strength and agility. Balance exercises can be a valuable component of a fitness regimen that help individuals reduce their risk for falling as they advance through their 50s and into their 60s and 70s. That's a significant benefit, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that one out of every three adults age 65 and older experiences a fall each year, and as many as 30 percent of those falls lead to serious injury.

- Embrace your inner socialite. Socialization is important for people of all ages, including individu-

als 50 and over. A 2017 study from researchers at Michigan State found that valuing friendships was a strong predictor of health and happiness among older adults. Opportunities to socialize with friends may increase as people navigate their 50s and children move out or become more independent. Individuals can take advantage of opportunities to socialize whenever possible.

Various strategies can help people maintain mental and physical wellness as they make their way through their 50s and beyond.

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# Evaluating seniors' biggest expenses

New parents may not be able to visualize that one day their largest expenditures won't be centralized around providing necessities for their children. Adults go through many years of paying for diapers, toys, clothing, food, and education for their children. Yet, when the children have flown the coop, spending patterns change, and even more changes await come retirement.

According to a 2020 survey from the financial services firm Edward Jones, 68 percent of workers soon to retire said they had no idea how much they should be setting aside for expenses, particularly health care and long-term care. Professionals approaching retirement would be wise to analyze the Consumer Price Index - Elderly (CPI-E). It is a good reference to estimate which future expenses will cost the most after retirement. The Bureau of Labor Statistics looks at consumer spending and uses various data to determine the rate of inflation in key areas that apply to older adults starting at age 62.

Individuals may be surprised to learn about where they'll be spending the bulk of their money when they get older. Here's a look at some key categories.

**Housing:** According to data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute, in 2017, the most recent year for which data is available, housing accounted for roughly 49 percent of all spending for seniors. Focus should be centered on lowering those costs when a fixed income is imminent. The possibilities include paying off a mortgage, downsizing a home to have a lower rent or mortgage payment, refinancing a home to a fixed-



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While vacations may be high on your to-do list after retirement, healthcare, housing, and food are the biggest expenses for seniors.

rate loan so that costs are predictable, and taking on a tenant to offset costs.

**Food:** The cost of food will not change dramatically, but it can eat into your budget. Even though food costs may decline when there's only two mouths to feed, food and beverage spending may go up due to more

leisure time and dining out. Utilize senior discounts by shopping on days when stores offer percentages off purchases. Save money on restaurant spending by eating out at lunch instead of dinner, splitting plates or skipping appetizers.

**Healthcare:** Experts warn that while many ex-

penses decline in retirement, health care spending increases. According to Fidelity, the average 65-year-old couple retiring in 2020 in the United States needed roughly \$295,000 just to cover their retirement health care expenses. Those with family histories of severe illnesses or those

with preexisting conditions will need even more. It's also important to realize that roughly half of the population will need long-term care at some point, offers The Motley Fool, and that requires advanced budgeting as well. Many people find that Medicare supplement plans can bridge the gap in

expenses that government-run plans will not cover. Saving through a health savings account (HSA) when employed also can create extra cash on hand for retirement expenses.

Understanding which retirement expenses will be high can help people plan better for the future.

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# How seniors can approach exercise



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Public health agencies advise seniors to get at least 2.5 hours of moderate aerobic exercise each week.

Exercise is a vital component of a healthy lifestyle. By making exercise part of their day-to-day routines, people of all ages, including men and women over the age of 65, can greatly improve their overall health.

The American Academy of Family Physicians notes that seniors should aspire to be as active as possible. Exercise is a great way to incorporate physical activity into your daily routine and has been linked to reduced risk for diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and osteoporosis. Though adults with chronic illnesses may be hesitant to exercise, the AAFP notes that it's possible for men and women who have been diagnosed with such conditions to exercise safely. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that regular physical activity is one of the most important things seniors can do for their health

and can potentially prevent many health problems associated with aging.

### FREQUENCY OF EXERCISE

Seniors, particularly those who have not exercised much in the past, may not know how much exercise they need to reap the full rewards of physical activity. Though it's best to discuss exercise with a physician prior to beginning a new regimen, various public health agencies advise seniors to get at least 2.5 hours of moderate aerobic exercise each week. Brisk walking is one example of moderate aerobic exercise. Seniors who want to sweat a little more when

exercising can replace moderate aerobic exercise with one hour and 15 minutes of vigorous exercise, such as jogging, each week.

### IS STRENGTH TRAINING SAFE FOR SENIORS?

The CDC advises seniors to incorporate muscle-strengthening activities into their weekly fitness routines twice per week. Lifting weights, working with resistance bands, heavy gardening, and even some forms of yoga qualify as muscle-strengthening activities. Exercises that use your body weight for resistance, such as sit-ups and push-ups, also can help build strength. Always speak with a physician before beginning a muscle-strengthening exercise regimen and, if possible, work with a personal trainer, especially if you're a novice.

### WHEN TO STOP A WORKOUT

It's imperative that seniors recognize when to stop working out. Exercising more than is recommended by your doctor can increase the risk of illness or injury. In addition, stop exercising if any of the following symptoms appear:

- Dizziness or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
- Swollen joints
- Nausea
- Tightness in muscle or joints
- Pain anywhere in the body
- Throbbing or burning sensations

Exercise can help seniors stay healthy and feel more energetic throughout the day. Before beginning a new regimen, seniors should discuss physical activity with their physicians.

*Never too old to learn something new*

## Age is no deterrent when it comes to academics

Students often experience some jitters on the first day of school, but the prospect of such nervousness doesn't appear to be too great a deterrent for students 60 and older. Officials at Toronto's York University estimated they had around 430 students aged 60 and older in undergraduate and graduate programs in 2021. Increased enrollment among people at or nearing what is often considered retirement age could be a reflection of what the AARP notes has been an increase in continuing education courses at many colleges and universities. Such courses may be offered to individuals of a certain age at reduced tuition. They also can help workers over 50 learn new skills that can benefit them in an ever-adapting professional landscape that increasingly relies on technologies that may not have been around when older professionals attended college and began their careers. In addition, the AARP reports that individuals interested in going back to school for personal enrichment, as opposed to achieve an advanced degree, may be able to audit classes for free. In such instances, older adults often do not receive academic credit but still get to benefit from taking the class.

DID YOU KNOW?

## Socialization can help prevent dementia

Socialization in midlife can have a profound impact on individuals as they approach their golden years. A 2019 study led by researchers at University College London found that being more socially active in your 50s and 60s predicts a lower risk of developing dementia later in life. The study used data from a previous study that tracked more than 10,000 participants between 1985 and 2013. Participants in the study completed cognitive

testing from 1997 onward. Researchers found that someone who saw friends almost daily at age 60 was 12 percent less likely to develop dementia than someone who only saw one or two friends every month. Strong associations between social contact at age 50 and subsequent dementia were also uncovered. The study supports the idea that remaining socially active in one's 50s and 60s can benefit long-term cognitive health.

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RETIREMENT

# Simple ways to lessen your financial load after 50

By the time people reach their 50th birthday, many have begun to imagine what their life in retirement may look like. Though data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates the number of people working into their 70s increased significantly during the first two decades of the twentieth century, the vast majority of professionals still call it a career sometime during their 60s.

Retirement may still be a long way off for people who are 50 or in their early 50s, but around this time thoughts of what retirement could be compel many people to seek ways to reduce their financial load in anticipation of the day when they will no longer be working. Cutting back needn't be complicated, and the following are some simple ways for individuals 50 and over to save money.

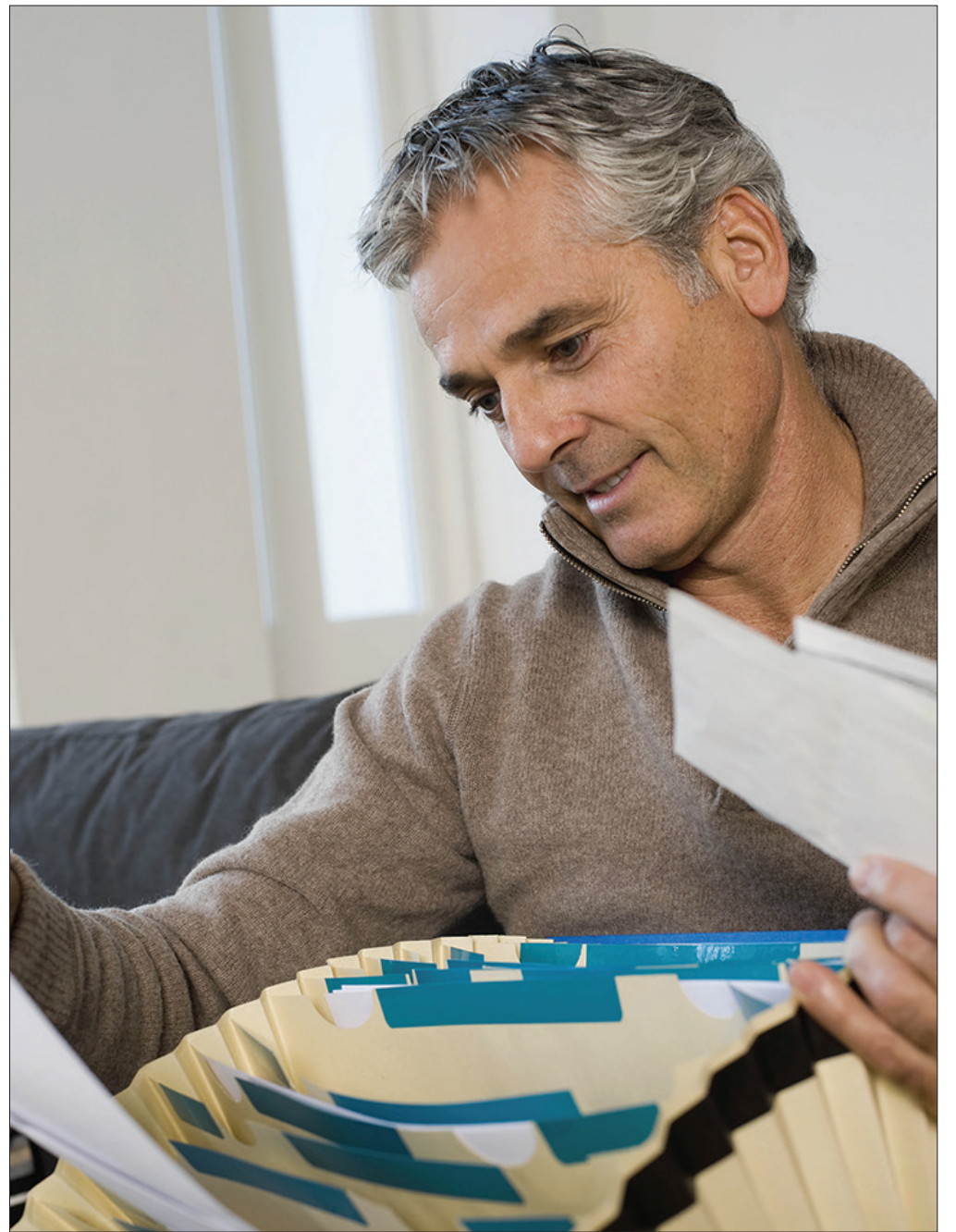
- **Address unsecured debt.** Unsecured debt, which can include credit card balances and medical bills, tends to carry higher interest rates than debts that carry a collateral requirement. According to the Federal Reserve, roughly 12.5 percent of individuals over 50 still have student loan debt, which is another type of unsecured debt. If possible, people over 50 should pay off these debts immediately or make their best effort to pay extra each month so they are paid off as soon as possible.
- **Pay in 'cash.'** It's not

enough to simply pay off unsecured debt like consumer credit. It's also important to stop accruing additional debt. Individuals over 50 should resist the temptation to use their credit cards, instead paying with cash or debit cards. Credit card debt is often characterized as a problem for young consumers, but a 2021 report from ValuePenguin found that the median credit card debt among individuals between the ages of 55 and 64 was higher than it was for consumers aged 35 to 44. Paying in cash, whether it's with paper currency or a debit card, ensures you're not digging yourself into debt.

- **Reexamine your housing situation.** Adults 50 and over who purchased their home in their late 20s or early 30s are likely nearing the maturity date on their mortgages. If so, paying a little extra toward the principal each month will help you pay off that mortgage a good deal earlier than if you keep paying the same amount

you've been paying for years. Though paying extra money each month may not seem like reducing your financial load, it will do so considerably over time. For example, the financial experts at Wells Fargo note that individuals with a fixed-rate mortgage loan of \$200,000 at 4 percent can cut the term of that loan by more than 4.5 years by paying as little as \$100 extra each month toward their principal. Homeowners over 50 who have already paid off a significant percentage of their mortgage loans could reach maturity much sooner if they start paying more toward principal now. Since housing costs are many people's greatest expense, removing a mortgage payment from your financial ledger by the time you reach 55 could create significant financial flexibility as you get closer to retirement.

- **Individuals over 50 can utilize some simple yet effective strategies to reduce their financial obligations as retirement nears.**



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Median credit card debt among Adults between the ages of 55 and 64 is higher than for consumers ages 35 to 44.

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# How to organize a social club

The early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic taught the world many lessons, not the least of which was how easy it can be to take socializing for granted. Lockdown was a big part of life during the early days of the pandemic, as people were forced to stay home from work and school and remain largely isolated, even from their own friends and family members.

The sense of isolation that many people developed during those early days of the pandemic likely didn't come as a surprise to medical researchers, particularly those who have studied the effects of isolation on aging populations. The National Institute on Aging indicates that social isolation and loneliness are linked to depression as well as a host of other negative health outcomes, including high blood pressure,

heart disease, obesity, and cognitive decline.

Social clubs can be a great way for adults over 50 to avoid isolation and loneliness. Such clubs can provide opportunities to connect with individuals who share similar interests, laying the foundation for new friendships that can be hard to develop in midlife.

Perhaps the best thing about social clubs is that anyone can start one. These tips can help individuals over 50 start social clubs that appeal to locals who are on the lookout for fun ways to meet new people.

- Think of a hobby unique to your location. One of the best ways to attract other locals is to find a hobby that caters to residents in your area. For example, coastal residents may want to start a local fishing club, while

city dwellers may draw more interest starting a club focused on local museums or restaurants.

- Take all comers. Individuals over 50 may aspire to meet people in situations similar to their own, but they should still allow anyone interested in their club to join. Adults in the early stages of midlife (i.e., their thirties and forties) are often too busy with their personal and professional lives to make much time for social clubs, so it's likely that those interested will be 50 or older. But accepting all who are interested can increase the chances of starting a diverse and engaging group.

- Spread the word. Meetup (meetup.com) has been facilitating connections for two decades, making it a great place to start a group for

people with shared interests. In addition to utilizing a service like Meetup, founders can spread the word through their social media apps and create fliers to post on public boards at local community centers and libraries.

- Find a public place to get together. It's best to avoid hosting club events and meetings at a private residence, including your own. Instead, prior to starting the club, look around for meeting places, which can include local churches, libraries or community centers. Ask about reserving spaces for meetings and look for places that are accessible for all people, including those with mobility issues.

Starting a social club can be a great way for individuals over 50 to meet new people and explore new or existing passions.



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Starting a social club can be a great way for individuals over 50 to meet new people and explore new or existing passions.

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# The pros and cons of early retirement

Retirement is a milestone that is often the byproduct of decades of hard work. Though a growing number of working professionals have no intention of ever retiring, the vast majority of adults look forward to the day when they can call it a career.

The prospect of early retirement is enticing to millions of people. Though retiring early may seem like a no brainer for individuals in position to do so, a careful consideration of the pros and cons of early retirement can ensure people make the best decision.

## BENEFITS OF EARLY RETIREMENT

For many people, early retirement is less about finding a beach to relax on and more about pivoting to a second career. In fact, a recent report from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicated that 74 percent of workers plan to get a new job after they retire. In such instances, early retirement is often about turning a long-time passion into a second career. That can help adults achieve a lifelong dream, making it one of the better reasons to retire early.

Another advantage to retiring early is the chance to spend more quality time with family. One study from the American Psychological Association found that more than half of working professionals now check work emails after work hours, including on weekends. Forty-four percent even check their email while on vacation. Early retirement enables individuals to escape that round-the-clock career commitment, affording retirees a chance to spend more unfiltered quality time with the people they love most.

Retiring early also provides an opportunity to escape a daily grind that many people have indicated has become increasingly burdensome in recent years. The 2021 Work and Well-Being Survey from the American Psychological Association found that 79 percent of the roughly 1,500 adults surveyed had experienced work-related stress in the month prior to participating. Work is a leading cause of stress for many people, and stress has been linked to a host of health problems. Individuals who can retire early can benefit from less stress in their lives.

## DISADVANTAGES TO RETIRING EARLY

Retiring early can seem like a dream, but it could turn into a nightmare for people whose finances aren't as robust as they need to be to support a lengthy retirement. One report from the Boston College Center for Retirement Research found that around 50 percent of working families face a significant decline in their standard of living during retirement. Life expectancy has been on the rise in developed

countries since 1900, so retiring too early carries some significant financial risk for people who have saved but not necessarily saved enough.

Retiring early also could make people more vulnerable to cognitive decline than they would be if they keep working. One study from researchers at Scotland's University of St. Andrews found that people who wait until age 67 to retire experience less cognitive decline than people who retire prior

to turning 67.

Out-of-pocket medical costs are another significant disadvantage to retiring early. Employer-sponsored medical insurance tends to cost individuals less than private plans, which is a significant consideration for individuals at a point in their lives when they may need to visit doctors more often.

Early retirement has its advantages and disadvantages. Individuals must consider both to make the best decision for themselves.





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# How empty nesters can overcome boredom

Raising children is a significant responsibility. Parents know there's no such thing as a day off, which is why the first day they come home to an empty nest can be so confounding.

After roughly two busy and likely hectic decades or more of looking after their children, parents whose sons or daughters have left home for the first time may experience feelings of sadness and loss. That's not unusual, as the Mayo Clinic notes it's a phenomenon known as 'empty nest syndrome.' Though it's not a clinical diagnosis, empty nest syndrome can be a difficult hurdle to overcome, especially for parents who find themselves suddenly bored after years of being so busy. Empty nesters looking to banish boredom can consider these strategies.

- Give your home a new look. Parents go to great lengths to make their homes welcoming safe havens for their children. Moms and dads often joke that, between play rooms and study areas, kids get the bulk of the real estate under their roofs. Now that the children have moved out, parents can take

back that space and refresh their homes. A home that's adapted for empty nesters will look quite different from one designed for families with young children. So a renovation or redesign can provide plenty of work that can fill idle time and instill a sense of excitement about the future.

- Become a weekend road warrior. Newly minted empty nesters are likely still working full-time. But now that there's no soccer practices or band recitals taking up valuable real estate on your weekend schedule, Saturdays and Sundays can provide perfect opportunities to travel. Plan routine weekend getaways, choosing different locales for each trip. Visit a city one weekend and devote a subsequent trip to the great outdoors.

- Reconnect with old friends. Some individuals experiencing empty nest syndrome may be hesitant to admit they're experiencing feelings of sadness and loneliness. But a recent Sky Mobile study of parents of teenagers in England found that 47 percent were fretting about

having an empty nest. So it's likely that old friends and fellow parents are experiencing feelings associated with empty nest syndrome. Reaching out to old friends is a great way to reconnect and can provide an outlet to discuss feelings parents might be hesitant to share with others. But empty nesters who experience significant feelings of sadness and loneliness are urged to speak with a health care professional as well.

- Replace kids' activities with your own. After years of toting kids from one extracurricular activity to another, empty nesters can now do the same for themselves. Visit local community centers and libraries and ask about classes for adults. Many offer classes on everything from crafts to sports. Adults also can research continuing education programs at local colleges and universities if they're interested in a career change or pursuing an advanced degree for personal enrichment.



# Common mid-career challenges and what to do about them

The next challenge is never too far off. And for mid-career professionals, those challenges could be accompanied by uncertainty about the direction of their careers and what their next step should be.

The following challenges won't affect every person over 50, but recognition of them could help mid-career professionals make the most of their remaining years in the workforce.

- Motivation: Professional motivation can wane by the

time many professionals reach 50. At this point in their careers, professionals may have decades of experience in a given field, and some may have reached management level within their firms. That combination of lengthy experience and achievement can make it hard to stay motivated, especially for professionals who feel they've gotten as high up the ladder as they can get in their companies.

In such instances, individuals can ask themselves what

they want next. Identifying professional goals can provide the motivation to go and achieve them. That spark can reignite the passion that helped mid-career professionals get where they are today.

- Hesitancy: Mid-career professionals often have significant obligations at work and at home. Individuals with a family may still have to provide for their children and save for costly college tuition. The pressure to provide for a family, coupled

with responsibilities to colleagues at the office, can make some professionals hesitant to pursue professional changes that could positively affect their lives. Individuals who want to make a change but are hesitant to do so can devote considerable effort to finding a solution that won't upset the apple cart. For example, professionals over 50 who feel a career change is in order can begin taking small steps to make that a reality. Doing so while continuing

to work ensures personal and professional obligations are met and gets individuals on the road to change they think will provide more fulfillment than their current careers.

- Underutilization: Mid-career professionals who feel they're underutilized at work may feel helpless to remedy their situations. Some might not welcome the upheaval to their routines that a career change would require, while others may question the wisdom

of seeking more responsibility at their current firms. In such instances, professionals can look for opportunities to do more. Offer to help when new work projects arise or mentor younger colleagues just starting out.

Mid-career challenges unique to their situations could await professionals over 50. Recognition of these challenges and a willingness to overcome them could lead to greater professional satisfaction.



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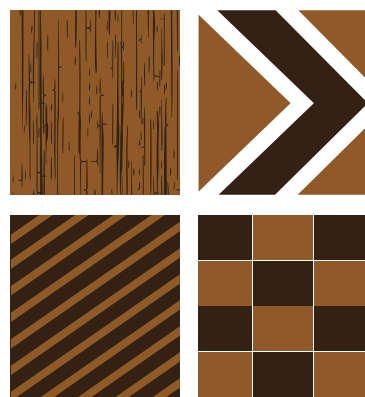
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